

## U.S. awaits Soviet move at Afghan talks

GENEVA (R) — The United States is waiting for the Soviet Union to respond to its proposals to break the deadlock at U.N.-sponsored talks on Afghanistan, a U.S. official said Monday. "I don't personally know what the Soviet reaction is going to be or how they propose to proceed," U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Robert Peck said as he arrived for fresh discussions with U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez. The talks, aimed at getting the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops out of Afghanistan, have stalled over U.S.-Pakistani insistence that Moscow cut military supplies to the Afghan government in symmetry with any U.S. aid cuts to Afghan rebels. Moscow has agreed to pull out its soldiers, but Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze rejected several proposals on military aid made last week in Washington by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Without progress on this issue, no Afghan pact is likely to be signed, and Peck said Washington wanted to keep talking. "We're open for discussion," he said.

# Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية والراي.

## Prince reviews national education plans

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday chaired a meeting of the Council of Higher Education to discuss policy and means of raising its standard within the framework of a comprehensive revision of the educational process in the Kingdom. Prince Hassan earlier Monday called at the Amman Polytechnic College and visited its various mechanical workshops and laboratories. The Crown Prince also held a meeting with the college's staff during which he stressed the importance of field visits to exchange views. Prince Hassan also expressed hope that the newly-established Higher Council of Science and Technology would play a key role in enhancing cooperation and coordination aimed at specifying the country's needs of graduates. The Crown Prince noted that there was no unemployment among polytechnic graduates in Jordan and that the country's development plans and the Jordanian labour market were still in need of more. Prince Hassan also emphasised the need for linking theoretical knowledge with practical applications.

Volume 13 Number 3743

AMMAN TUESDAY MARCH 29, 1988, SHABAN 10, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

## Nimer briefs envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nabih Al Nimer Monday received several foreign ambassadors accredited to Jordan and briefed them on the outcome of the 17th conference of Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers held here last week. Nimer focused on the major issues tackled by the conference, especially the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iran-Iraq war. Nimer leaves for Tunis today to take part in meetings of a seven-member Arab League committee charged with following up on the uprising. The committee has already visited London, Paris, Peking and Moscow and is expected to visit Washington soon.

## Resistance reports anti-Israeli attack

BEIRUT (R) — Resistance fighters said they launched a rocket attack on an Israeli position in South Lebanon Monday, killing or wounding several soldiers. A statement by the Islamic Resistance said the post was in the Saluki Valley, in Israel's self-declared "security zone."

## PLO hopes to reopen office in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation hopes to reopen its Beirut office soon, nearly six years after Palestinian fighters were forced to leave the city by the Israelis, the Voice of the Nation Radio said Monday. It quoted PLO official Yasser Abed Rabbo as saying in an interview that the movement would open an embassy in Washington once an independent Palestinian state is set up by an international Middle East peace conference. The radio said Abed Rabbo, head of the PLO's information department, gave the interview Sunday before he left Beirut for Prague after a one-day visit with an Arab League delegation that discussed financial aid for war-battered Lebanon.

## Velayati in Athens

ATHENS (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived Monday for a three-day official visit to discuss bilateral and international issues, officials said. Velayati is due to meet Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu and Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias Tuesday.

## Walsh, Israel enter agreement

WASHINGTON (R) — After more than a year of negotiations, Israel and the special prosecutor investigating the Iran-contra scandal announced Monday they had signed an agreement covering Israel's cooperation in the probe. Both sides agreed the terms of the agreement will remain secret, said special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh, who has been investigating the scandal that resulted in President Reagan's worst foreign policy crisis.

## Vanunu files appeal

TEL AVIV (R) — Former nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu appealed to Israel's supreme court Monday against an 18-year prison sentence for treason and espionage, armed forces radio said. Justice ministry spokeswoman Ety Eshet said no appeal had yet been received "but it could take up to 10 hours to go through the right channels before it is officially lodged," (see related story on page 5).

# Israel seals off W. Bank, Gaza

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) —** The Israeli army announced Monday it was closing the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for three days to forestall violent demonstrations on Land Day, which falls Wednesday.

"Starting on Tuesday morning in the West Bank, and Monday night in Gaza, the residents of the areas will not be allowed to enter Israel until Friday, April 1...the West Bank and Gaza will be declared closed military areas," said a military statement.

The measure would bar news coverage and prevent Israelis and Arabs from entering the occupied zones.

The only exception would be the 65,000 Jewish settlers living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They would not be restricted.

Officials said the army also would close the two bridges across the Jordan River to prevent Palestinians from crossing to Arab countries. Incoming traffic would not be affected, they said.

The closure was to take effect at 1 a.m. Tuesday (2300 GMT Monday) for the West Bank, and 10 p.m. Monday (2000 GMT) for the Gaza Strip, where five-hour nightly curfews already are in effect.

Israel's 24-member cabinet reportedly authorised the measures in its weekly session Sunday. Israeli officials said the move

was intended to lessen tensions Wednesday, when Palestinians will mark Land Day, the 12th anniversary of a 1976 clash between Israeli soldiers and Arabs over the confiscation of Arab land. Six Arabs were killed.

Before the army issued its statement, Israeli forces began mobilising throughout Israel for Land Day.

"Movement of the media in the occupied areas will be with the approval and accompaniment of an army spokesman," the statement said.

It will be the first time media movements have been restricted throughout the occupied areas. Sources told Reuters the Rafah checkpoint connecting the Gaza Strip with Egypt would remain open.

Underground leaflets signed by the Unified Command for the Uprising have called for major demonstrations throughout Israel and the occupied territories to mark Land Day.

**News blackout**  
The Israeli army has placed increased restrictions on media

coverage in recent weeks, declaring most of the occupied territories off limits Fridays during weekly prayer services. Also, Israeli officers have made more frequent use of emergency powers to declare areas off limits to the news media at any time.

Spokesmen have been barred from giving details of mass arrests, economic sanctions, detentions without trial and the opening of new prison camps.

"There is nothing I can tell you now about these things. The policy at the moment is not to give numbers," a military spokesman said Monday.

Military censorship, barely used for the first three months of the Palestinian uprising, has been revived.

Among the measures the army has refused to confirm are the arrest of at least 1,000 Palestinians in the last week and the cutting of electricity, water and telephones in several areas of the West Bank and Gaza.

The Palestine Press Service (PPS) said Monday a resident of the Dheishah refugee camp, aged 22, was critically wounded when Israeli troops opened fire on demonstrators. It said two other demonstrators were shot and wounded in Sarra village and Qalandia refugee camp.

**Continued arrests**  
Troops also detained seven

(Continued on page 5)  
Arab bows and arrows alarm Israeli police, page 5

## Arafat: Shultz recognises inevitability of Palestinian role in peace process

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Monday Secretary of State George Shultz now realised the U.S. peace plan for the Middle East could not succeed without Palestinian participation.

"I believe Shultz now knows the fact that he is unable to go ahead with the Middle East plan without the representatives of the Palestinian people," Arafat told reporters.

"Shultz's meeting on Saturday with (Palestinian-Americans) Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu Lughod, by itself, means that America has started to take this fact into account," he said.

Shultz is due to return to the Middle East next Sunday in a fresh bid to promote the proposals, which call for an international conference in mid-April followed by talks on interim Palestinian "self-rule" and direct Arab-Israeli discussions.

The plan does not mention the PLO and says Palestinians should be represented in a joint delegation with Jordan. The PLO wants to be represented on a footing equal with other parties.

The PLO said Sunday that the Shultz meeting with the Palestinian-Americans was an important

step because both were members of the Palestine National Council (PNC).

Arafat said he had given his approval for Said and Abu Lughod to attend the meeting with Shultz as a sign of the PLO's positive approach to the peace plan.

Senior PLO officials were now studying their report of the meeting, he said.

**Shamir assails Shultz**

Meanwhile Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir slammed Shultz for his meeting with the Palestinian-Americans and renewed his opposition to the U.S. peace plan.

"We take a very grave view of American efforts to establish contacts with people of the PLO," Shamir told the Israeli parliament.

"Members of the Palestine National Council are members of the PLO in every way. This council is the highest body of the... organisation," he said.

His criticism of the United States, Israel's closest ally, was unusually blunt.

Shamir rejected the U.S. proposal to convene an international peace conference that he said would force Israel to withdraw

from the occupied territories.

"Every effort to suggest an alternative to direct and bilateral negotiations — either through an international conference or other proposals that neglect the needs of our defence and future — cannot succeed," Shamir said.

He urged to the Palestinians of the occupied territories to shun the PLO and join a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in negotiating directly with Israel.

**More meetings planned**

In comments published in the Israeli Maariv newspaper, a senior Arafat advisor said Shultz would have additional meetings with Palestinians linked to the PLO.

Bassam Abu Sharif told Maariv in a telephone interview that the next such meeting could take place in Jerusalem during Shultz's trip to the Middle East next week.

Palestinians from the occupied territories refused to meet Shultz during his last trip in February. But Abu Sharif said the PLO saw Shultz's meeting with Abu Lughod and Said as "an important step to the advancement of

(Continued on page 5)



Israeli soldiers on guard at Bethlehem police station open fire as the station comes under attack Sunday from rock-throwing Palestinian demonstrators. A policeman, left, ducks down while a soldier, centre, prepares to open fire.

## Mujahedeen launch offensive in Khuzestan amid raging battles in Kurdistan Mountains

# Iraq fires 3 missiles at Qom; Iranians raid 2 tankers in Gulf

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said it fired three missiles at Iran's holy city of Qom Monday as the "war of the cities" entered its second month and reports said heavy battles continued in the Kurdistan Mountains.

An Iraqi high command communique said the missiles were fired within the space of two minutes in response to Iran's "aggression on our borders and towns."

Iraq jets bombed four other Iranian towns Monday before returning safely to base, a military spokesman said.

On Sunday, Iraq launched two missiles at Tehran and two at the historic city of Esfahan, 30 kilometres to the south. Iran last fired a missile at Baghdad early Sunday.

Iraq has reported 118 missile

strikes on Tehran and other Iranian towns since the "war of the cities" erupted. Iran says it has hit Baghdad and other towns with 56 missiles.

Iranian gunboats attacked two supertankers in the Gulf, setting them ablaze. Iraqi-backed opponents of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini said several thousand of their fighters overran Iranian positions in southwest Iran.

Iraq, which has admitted it has lost some ground in the mountainous northeast, vowed to "destroy the Iranian aggressors with all available means."

The Iraqi army's Al Qadesiyah daily, heightening the belief that the Iranians had occupied some Iraqi territory, exhorted soldiers to "pour your rage and fire on the heads of the Persians who have gone too far... rub their

foreheads in the mud of defeat." Iranian Revolutionary Guards Minister Mohsen Rafiq-Doust was quoted as saying in Tehran Sunday night that his men had overrun 1,400 square kilometres of Kurdistan.

Iraqi-backed Iranian rebels said their National Liberation Army (NLA) launched a major offensive on a 30-kilometre front in Iran's oil-rich southwestern Khuzestan province near the town of Shush.

The NLA said in a communique that 15 brigades of its fighters pushed into Khuzestan to drive Iranians out of positions and threaten a key highway southwest of the garrison city of Dezful.

It reported heavy Iranian casualties with "a large number

(Continued on page 5)

## Libya to withdraw forces from Egypt border

CAIRO (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said Monday he was withdrawing Libya's forces from along the Egyptian border and was asking nothing in return for the pull-back.

If carried out, the Libyan decision would represent an conciliatory move unprecedented since his feud with Egypt began about 15 years ago. It follows a series of smaller-scale reciprocal goodwill gestures between the two countries in recent weeks.

Qadhafi made the announcement in a speech at a former British base at the Mediterranean city of Tobruk near the Egyptian border. The speech, broadcast live by Libyan Television, was delivered at a ceremony marking the 18th anniversary of Britain's

evacuation of military bases in Libya.

In another departure from long-standing hostile policy towards Cairo, Qadhafi vowed Libya would not use force to undermine President Hosni Mubarak's government or get it to renounce its 1979 treaty with Israel. The treaty was among numerous sore spots in the Egyptian-Libyan friction.

The speech contained one anti-Egyptian barb, however, with Qadhafi charging that Egypt "abandoned" the Arab World when it signed the American-mediated Camp David framework agreements with Israel. One of the two accords fathered the peace treaty.

"I hereby declare the withdrawal of all military troops from

along the Libyan-Egyptian artificial borders," Qadhafi said.

"I want to emphasise to the Egyptian people and army that the Libyan eastern military zone (along the border) will finally be abolished."

Qadhafi said Libya would continue to oppose Egypt but not militarily.

"It is not our intention to change Egypt by force from inside, or to force it to leave the Camp David treaties by force, or to return it to the Arab ranks, which it has abandoned, by force."

"There is no Arab-Arab military confrontation, at least in the foreseeable future," he said.

He said Libya would still fight against the recognition of Israel by an Arab state.

Qadhafi did not say how many troops Libya has massed along the border. Neither did he specify a time frame for the pullback.

The Egyptian-Libyan feud began in 1972 when Qadhafi rejected Qadhafi's bid for immediate merger of the two countries.

Egypt blamed Qadhafi for a series of bombings in Cairo and other cities in 1975 and 1976, and the two countries fought a five-day border war in July 1977. Since then, they have maintained large military forces astride the border in varying degrees of alert.

"There will be no more Libyan military concentrations in the direction of the Egyptian army and people and Egyptian lands because they are our army, people and land," Qadhafi said.

The WICS groups 244 Islamic organisations and institutions from all over the world, including Europe and North America. Its general assembly meets once every year and elects a 36-member executive council, which in turn names an executive committee comprising of the secretary-general and representatives of the Asian and African countries and the Arab World.

**Programmes**  
Sherif said the executive committee met in the Maldives on March 7 and drew up executive programmes with a total budget of \$45 million for 1988. These programmes include humanitarian assistance, religious guidance projects and employment schemes for agricultural engineers in Africa and Southeast Asia.

(Continued on page 5)

## Islamic society chief slams 'Western anti-Muslim propaganda'

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Islam is the target of an organised Western campaign aimed at distorting its image and portraying it in a negative light, linking it with "international terrorism" and creating inter-Muslim splits, according to the head of the World Islamic Call Society (WICS).

"It is too much of a coincidence to see publication after publication coming out from the West containing anti-Islamic sentiments and attacks," said Dr. Mohammad Ahmad Sherif, secretary-general of the Tripoli-based society.

"Over 150 books have been published in the last five years, and it is impossible to accept that so many individual authors are conveying the same theme of anti-Islamic propaganda and

hostility without there being some sort of an organised drive," Sherif told the Jordan Times in an interview conducted on the fringes of the 17th Islamic foreign ministers conference held here last week.

Sherif, who attended the conference and contributed to its deliberations, refrained from naming any of the publications or authors, but he pointed an accusing finger at "European and American intelligence agencies and religious groups" as the "guiding hands behind the anti-Islamic campaign."

Furthermore, he said, many European and American academic as well as information media organisations appear to be contributing to the anti-Muslim drive.

According to Sherif, a Libyan national, a unified Islamic strategy is the answer to the campaign. "The first step is

ensure that Muslims learn about themselves through themselves," he said. "The truth is that, in most cases, Muslims hear about themselves and other Muslims in the world through the Western media. This situation warrants increased information exchanges among Muslim countries."

"Muslims should not get ideas about themselves through a foreign source," he said. "We should understand ourselves first."

As part of its effort to counter the effects of the media campaign, the WICS organises periodical meetings bringing together Islamic scholars from the West as well as the East to chalk out awareness efforts.

**'Helpful conference'**  
Asked what his impressions were of the March 21-25 conference of Organisation of Islamic

Conference (OIC) foreign ministers in Amman, Sherif said: "It was an extremely good gathering. Of course, one cannot expect problems to be settled overnight, but regular meetings like these will go a long way towards that goal."

Sherif said the OIC was of "great help to the World Islamic Call Society."

The Amman meeting, he said, "helped every Muslim in the sense that they could meet their brothers from elsewhere in the world and exchange ideas."

**WICS concept**  
The WICS was set up after a meeting in Libya of ulama from over 35 countries in 1970. "The central theme behind the society has always been, and still remains to be, a dedicated stand that it should always be away from government influ-

ence or any political leanings," Sherif said. "The society's main sources of income are private contributions as well as donations from Islamic governments. We accept contributions as long as there are no strings attached to them."

Sherif explained that the society adopts a neutral stand and encourages "brotherly dialogue" to settle differences among Islamic states. "Needless to say, our stand will always be on the side of Muslim countries in cases where a non-Muslim party is involved."

Another source of income for the society is its Jihad Fund, which levies an annual contribution of one to four per cent of the annual income of everyone who works in Libya, and collects one Libyan dinar from everyone who visits or leaves Libya. One Libyan dinar is about \$3.

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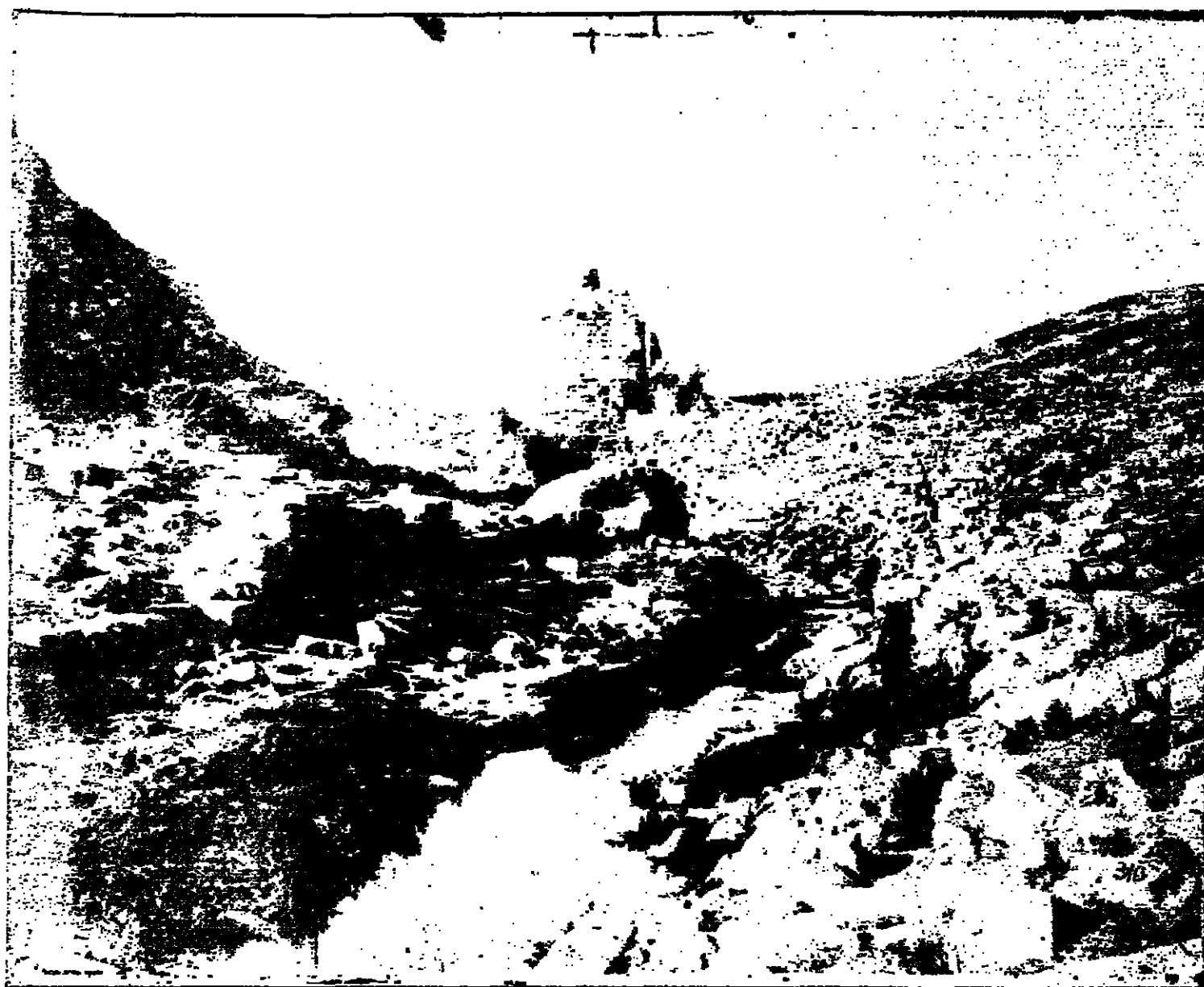


Dr. Mohammad Ahmad Sherif

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General view of the Roman ruins of Amman, from the north-east, circa 1900, showing remains of the Roman bridge and Nymphaeum.

## A short history of Jordan - I

# Tribes versus the Ottomans

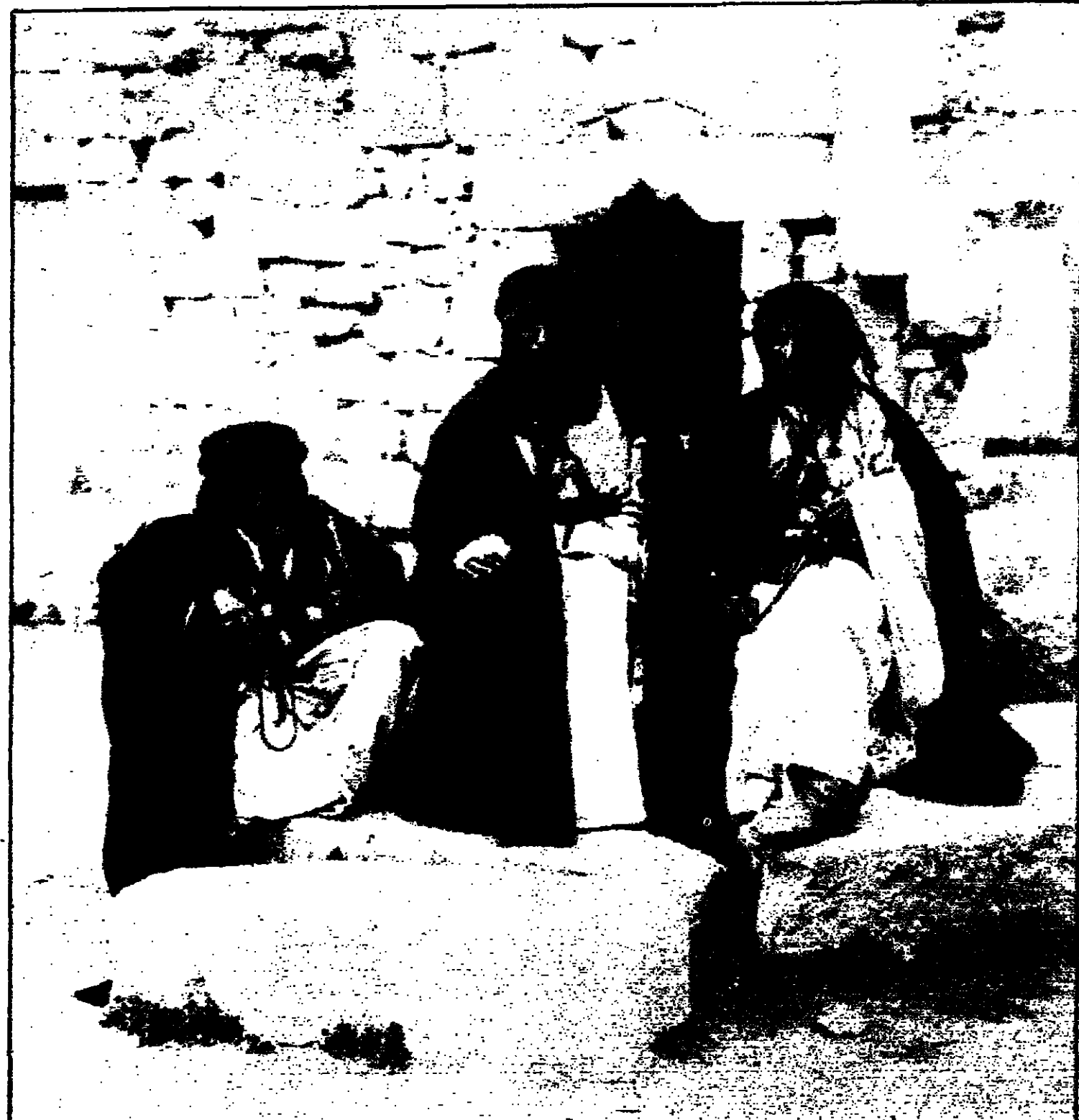
The following is the first of three articles summarising Jordan's history in the 19th century. The writer, a leading Jordanian businessman, is a researcher in contemporary history. He recently obtained his doctorate degree in history from St. Anthony's College at Oxford.

By Dr. Raouf Sa'd Abujaber

THE Ottoman conquest of Bilad al-Sham began four hundred years of occupation when Sultan

Selim defeated the Mamluk Sultan Qansawh al-Ghawri at the battle of Marj Dabiq near Aleppo on Sunday 25 Rajab 933 H/24 August 1516 A.D. Transjordan, or south-eastern Bilad al-Sham, fell to the Ottomans soon afterwards, without any fighting, and its people could have felt very little of the new upheaval. As far as we know, the country was not prosperous and was without any cities of importance. It was far from the centres of political and military activity in the Empire. Unlike the areas around Damascus and Aleppo, it had no claims to economic or military importance and was therefore considered by the new Ottoman administration as a poor outlying district that neither required nor deserved any attention. This attitude on the part of the administration changed during the two months of the annual (haj) pilgrimage season when the haj route and the stations on it from Damascus to Medina bustled with activity. Once the haj was over, the area lapsed again into its predominant condition of neglect and inactivity.

Information available to us about the course of events and the way of life during the first three



The sons of Sheikh Diab, a photograph by the Bouffis brothers circa 1885. (Courtesy Harvard Semitic Museum collection)

centuries of Ottoman rule in Transjordan is rather scarce. It is certain, however, that the area bordering on Badiyat al Sham (the Syrian steppe) endured a continued state of instability due to a conflict of interests between the nomadic tribes and the Ottoman government, particularly with regard to the latter's administration of the haj caravan to the Holy Places. The Ottomans strongly believed that it was their solemn duty to safeguard the pilgrimage. The bedouin tribes had equally strong convictions: Living on both sides of the route, they maintained that this was their *dura* (domain) and therefore that they had right to the benefits of this yearly venture into their tribal territories. These divergent views were the cause of much friction, especially since the Ottomans did not try to arrange the permanent presence of a real force in the area.

So far, exhaustive research has not revealed much written history about the first three hundred years. Studies like this, therefore, have to depend on records and documents that are kept in the archives at Istanbul, Damascus

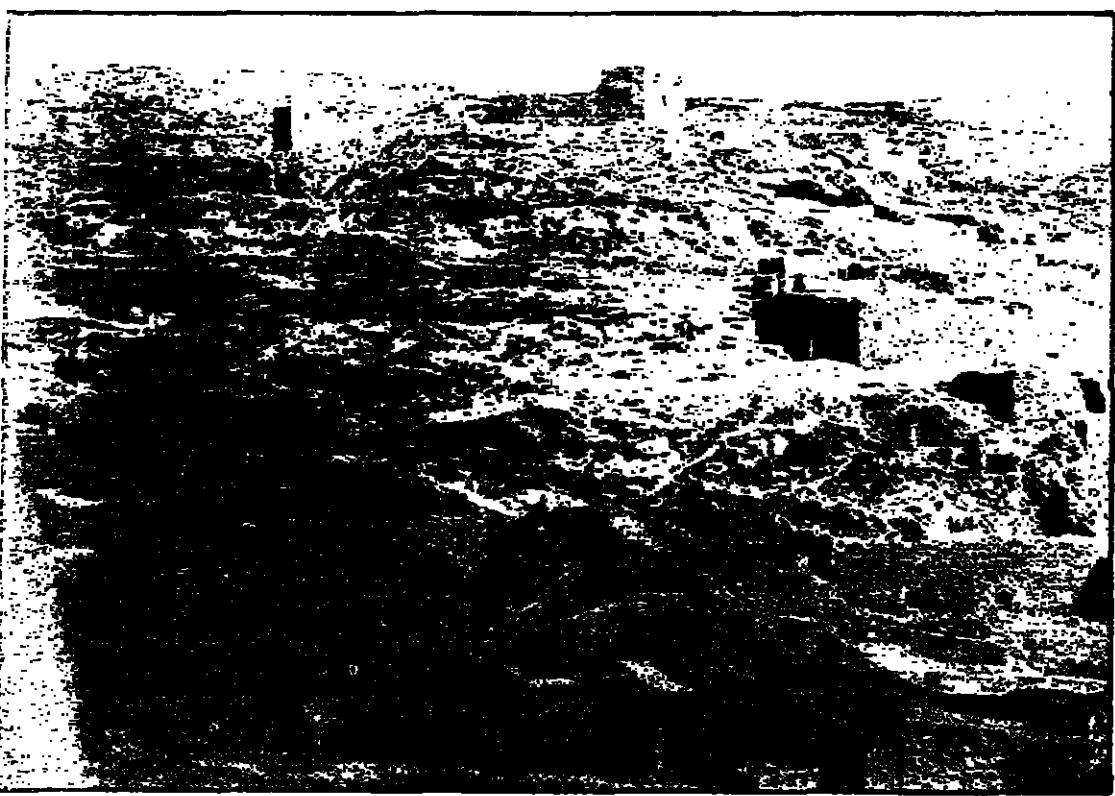
and Nabhus, as well as on reports of travellers and consuls, whenever available. Ottoman care for records and documents, together with their zeal for tax-collection, has fortunately preserved for us an excellent example of fiscal activity as it was at the end of the 16th century. This is the *Defteri Mufasssal Jadid* (New Detailed Register) which was compiled in 1005 H/1596-7, A.D., and thoroughly studied by the two geographers Wolf-Dieter Hutteroth and Kamal Abdulfattah. The data needed for population studies is very well presented in their detailed published work. Tables provide the number of villages, the population estimates and the amount of taxes due from every province in akces, an Ottoman silver coin (called asper by Europeans). Forty akces were equivalent to one Ottoman gold piece during the 16th century but by 1730 it had fallen to 300 and was finally abandoned at the beginning of the 19th century. The final population figure for Transjordan of around 52,000 people is in line with around 50,000 for Hawran, 40,000 for Jabal Nabhus and 42,000 for Jabal al-Quds

(Jerusalem). An important aspect of the population distribution in Transjordan during this period is the non-existence of any cities. People lived in small villages or encampments; the largest settlement was 'Ajloun which had a total of 364 households, or around 1,800 people.

During the 19th century, the situation as far as the Empire's population was concerned underwent a change for the better. The government in Istanbul beginning with the reign of Sultan Selim III (1789-1807) and the institution of the Nizam-i cedid (new troops) was attempting to introduce a new programme in the system of government, administration, education, and taxation. This trend continued during the reign of Sultan Mahmud II (1808-1839), a period described as "the Turning Point." However, until the latter part of the 19th century, the reforms were barely felt in Syria where the Ottoman authority at the time was nominal. In Transjordan, the northern part continued to be run by its provincial chiefs whilst in the middle

area known as al-Balqa falling between the river Zarqa and the Wadi al-Mujib, the differences, fights and sometimes alliances continued. Generally they were between the two strongest tribal confederations, that of al-Balqa under the leadership of al-'Adwan and that of Bani Sakhr under the leadership of al-Fayz. The situation south of Wadi Mujib was in a similar situation with al-Majali and the Huwyat playing major roles.

The population had been mistreated for centuries, either by the governors, such as Ahmad Pasha al-Jazzar, Wali of Acre, or bedouin tribes in the different districts. People therefore migrated from one place to another in an attempt to find a better and more peaceful life. Al-Salt, whose people in March 1806 "are free from every kind of taxation, and acknowledge no master" had its share of this population movement in the form of a wave of immigrants, who not only added to the population's numbers but also to their crude skills. About a hundred of them came from Acre and Nazareth.



A view of Salt, circa 1900, showing the remains of the castle which has now totally disappeared.

## TV & RADIO

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

#### PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran  
15:35 Programme review  
15:45 News in French  
15:55 Children's programmes  
16:05 In Search of the Past  
16:10 Spirit Bay  
16:15 Local programme  
16:20 Basketball  
16:25 Message from Oman  
16:30 Local programme  
16:35 Programme review  
16:40 News in Arabic  
16:45 Arabic Series  
16:50 Cultural seminar  
16:55 Varieties programme  
17:00 News summary in Arabic  
17:05 Programme contd.

#### PROGRAMME TWO

18:20 La montre du douca (French film)  
18:25 News in French  
18:30 French varieties: Un DB de plus  
18:35 Varieties  
18:40 News in Arabic  
18:45 No place like Home  
18:50 Stand by - Light! Camera!  
18:55 Action!  
19:00 News in English  
19:05 Murder She Wrote  
19:10 Three's Company

### RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM  
& partly on 95.0 KHz. SW  
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07:00 Light Music  
07:30 Newsdesk  
08:00 Morning Show  
08:30 News Summary  
09:00 Just a Minute  
10:00 Good Old Days  
10:30 News Summary  
11:00 30 Minute Theatre  
11:30 News Summary  
12:00 Pop Session Contd.  
12:30 News Bulletin  
13:00 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10  
13:30 15 Minute Theatre  
14:00 Concert Hour  
14:30 News Summary  
15:00 Instrumentals  
15:30 Old Favourites  
16:00 Pop Talk  
16:30 News Summary  
17:00 Top Twenty  
17:30 Music  
18:00 News Desk

### DATE WITH A STAR

19:30 Date with a Star  
20:00 Evening Show  
21:00 News Summary  
21:05 Evening Show Contd.  
22:00 News Summary  
22:05 Evening Show Continued  
23:00 News Summary  
23:05 Evening Show Continued  
24:00 Close Down

### BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 New Ideas 06:45  
Reflections 06:50 Financial News 07:00  
World News 07:05 24 Hours News  
Summary 07:10 Report on Religion:  
The Wondrous Cross 07:40 Turning  
over New Leaves 07:45 The World  
Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Best on  
Record 08:40 World News 09:00 24  
Hours News Summary 09:30 The Un-  
claimed Promise 09:45 Network U.K.  
10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections  
10:15 Health Matters 10:30 Best on  
Record 11:00 World News 11:05 British  
Press Review 11:15 The World  
Today 11:30 Financial News: Sports  
Roundup 11:45 Capriccio 12:00 News  
Summary: Discovery 12:30 Sports In-  
ternational 13:00 World News 13:05  
News About Britain 13:15 The Woun-  
drous Cross 13:25 A Letter from Scot-  
land 13:30 Citizen 14:00 Radio News-  
reel 14:15 Multitrack 1: Top 20 14:45  
Sports Round-up 15:00 World News  
15:05 24 Hours News Summary 15:30  
Network U.K. 15:45 Recording of the  
Week 16:00 News: Outlook 16:45 Vir-  
tuoso 17:00 Radio Newsreel 17:15 A  
Jolly Good Show 17:30 Two Cheers for  
March 17:50 Sportsweek 18:00 World  
News 18:05 Commentary 18:15 Coun-  
cil 18:45 The World Today 19:00  
World News 19:05 A Letter from  
Scotland 19:15 Citizen 19:45 Sports  
Roundup 20:00 Newsdesk

### VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740,  
11925 and 12710 Hz

06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA  
Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline  
07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10  
Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 17:00  
News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 Music  
USA 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30  
Special English News & Features 19:00  
News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Magazine  
Show 20:00 News 20:10 Focus 20:30  
Special English News & Features 21:00  
News 21:10 Newsline America 21:30  
Music USA 22:00 News & Editorial  
22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00 News  
23:10 World Report

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### TODAY'S EVENTS

#### EXHIBITIONS

★ Egyptian Book Exhibition at the Professional Association Union.

★ Book exhibition at the Comprehensive Commercial Centre (Tower Building), Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle (permanent).

★ General book exhibition at the Professional Associations Complex in Shmeisani.

★ Art exhibition by Samia Zarour at the Jordan National Museum of Fine Arts (until end of March).

★ Art exhibition by Mohammad Bouf and Monira Al Tawish at the Housing Bank Gallery (runs through April 19).

★ First School Arts Exhibition at Almad Tawqas School. Open during school hours until June 1988.

★ Exhibition for the Spanish artist Maria Dolores Travesedo at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until March 30).

★ From Gutenberg to Electronics Dar el Tili (until 11 April) Goethe Institute.

★ British Illustration from Caxton to Chloé (runs through April 31) at British Council.

★ An exhibition about French architecture at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Jordan (until March 29).

★ The Kevin Eubanks Trio are visiting Jordan March 23 through March 29. The trio, a guitarist, bassist and drummer, perform an energised brand of contemporary jazz. For more details on the trio's performances, please call the American Centre.

★ Les Ballets de l'Empire Boris Vian at 8:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (runs through March 30).

### LECTURE

★ The Goethe-Institute in Amman invites you to a lecture (in English) entitled "The Jordanian-German Cooperation in the Fields of Archaeology, Anthropology and Epigraphy" by Prof. Dr. Manfred Ullrich Tuesday, 29 March 1988, at 8 p.m.

### SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m. Lions Palestine Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.

### CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubdeh, Tel. 627440.  
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 617157.  
Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Lubdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel: 622366.  
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.  
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383, chaplain's residence, tel. 601359.  
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.  
Assiout International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Azalea Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295.  
Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Interdenominational-cummenical English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 822025. Rev. Vail.

### JAZZ PERFORMANCES

★ The Kevin Eubanks Trio are visiting Jordan March 23 through March 29. The trio, a guitarist, bassist and drummer, perform an energised brand of contemporary jazz. For more details on the trio's performances, please call the American Centre.

### THEATRE

★ Les Ballets de l'Empire Boris Vian at 8:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (runs through March 30).

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

#### ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
06:30 Agaba (RJ)  
06:30 Kuwait (RJ)  
06:30 Cairo (RJ)  
06:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
06:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
06:30 Jeddah (RJ)  
06:30 Laraca (RJ)  
06:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)  
06:30 Paris, Brussels (RJ)  
06:30 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)  
06:30 Istanbul (RJ)  
06:30 Tripoli (RJ)  
06:30 Rome (RJ)

### OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

12:30 Moscow (SU)  
13:30 Bucharest (RO)  
13:30 Kuwait (KU)  
14:45 Tripoli (LI)  
15:00 Riyadh (SV)  
16:35 Cairo (MS)  
17:05 Zurich, Geneva (SU)  
19:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
19:15 Dubai (EK)  
22:55 London, Cairo (BA)

### DEPARTURES

#### ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

07:00 Agaba (RJ)  
06:45 Rome (RJ)  
06:45 Tripoli (RJ)  
11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)  
11:00 Belgrade, Madrid (RJ)  
12:00 Geneva, London (RJ)  
12:45 Istanbul (RJ)  
13:00 Laraca (RJ)  
13:35 Kuwait (RJ)  
19:40 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
20:15 Cairo (RJ)  
20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
21:15 Damascus (RJ)  
22:00 Bangkok (RJ)

### OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

08:15 Beirut (ME)  
14:00 Moscow (SU)  
14:35 Kuwait (KU)

### PRAYER TIMES

04:30 Bucharest (RO)  
05:45 Kuwait (LN)  
06:40 Riyadh (SV)  
07:20 Cairo (MS)  
07:55 Damascus (AZ)  
08:15 Dubai (EK)

### MONEY EXCHANGE

#### Monday rates

Local scribbles rates in Jds  
Belgian franc 95.5/ 97.4  
Dutch guilder 177.8/ 181.4  
French franc 58.8/ 60.1  
Italian lire 27/ 27.5  
Japanese yen (for 100) 267.8/ 273.5  
Swedish crown 56.5/ 57.6  
Swiss franc 241.5/ 246.7  
U.K. sterling pound 614.2/ 628.6  
U.S. dollar 333.7/ 339.2  
W. German mark 199.6/ 203.8

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively warm in the morning hours but due to a cold front that may affect the northern area in the afternoon, scattered showers and a drop in temperature may be expected. In Aqaba, it will be southerly moderate and rough seas.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 6/17  
Aqaba 15/29  
Deserts 6/19  
Jordan Valley 14/25

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18.6, Aqaba 30. Humidity readings: Amman 42 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

### EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228  
Amman Civil Defence 198, 199  
Civil Defence triad 27393, 273131  
Civil Defence Qweishneh 770733  
Civil Defence Deir Alla 5706  
Ambulance 193, 775111  
Amman downtown fire brigade 198  
First aid 63641  
Blood Bank 778033  
Civil Defence rescue 661111  
Fire headquarters 6229033  
Police rescue 192, 621111, 657777  
Police headquarters 63941  
Traffic police 8969071  
Electric Power Co. 6363814, 624881  
Municipal water complaints 771258  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport (08)5330400

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Walid Masri 675485  
Dr. Issam Hawandeh 624830  
Dr. A. Lala 896046  
Dr. Khalid M'addi 743500  
First pharmacy 661912  
Fardous pharmacy 778336  
Al Asema pharmacy 637053  
Naironh pharmacy 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

### TAXIS

Karak taxi 668761  
Grand Palace taxi 667079  
First taxi 685186  
Rashid taxi 622023  
Commodore taxi 668186  
Tayche taxi 662032  
Faisal taxi 623051  
San Rock taxi 813801

### HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816  
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Maltes, J. Amman 636440  
Palestine, Shmeisani 664714  
Shmeisani Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 845845  
Al-Mushar Hospital 6672279  
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737  
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646  
Italian, Al-Mushar 7771013  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 891611/15  
Army, Marika 60224050  
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050  
Ansal Hospital 674155

### GENERAL

Jordan Television 773111/19  
Radio Jordan 774111/19  
Ministry of Tourism 642311  
Hotel complaints 666412  
Price complaints 661176  
Telephone information 12  
Jordan and Middle East calls 10  
Overseas calls 17  
Repair service 11

## MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.  
Apple (French) 420/360  
Apple (green) 470/400  
Banana 350/300  
Banana (Mekansha) 540/460  
Beans (broad) 350/300  
Cabbage 200/150  
Carrot 260/200  
Cauliflower (white) 220/180  
Cucumber 280/220  
Eggplant (large) 350/280  
Eggplant (small) 350/280  
Garlic (dry) 140/100  
Garlic (green) 150/100  
Lemon 200/150  
Mango 300/250  
Onion (green) 160/120  
Onion (dry) 220/170  
Orange (local) 220/160  
Oranges (Shmeisani) 300/250  
Peas 400/350  
Pepper (hot) 660/580  
Pepper (sweet) 360/300  
Potato 140/100  
Radish 80/50  
Spinach 140/100  
Tomatoes 260/200



## Queen meets athletes

AMMAN (Petra and J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor met at the Al Hussein Youth City Monday with 100 athletes of the Jordanian team who took part in the Ninth Arab Cross Country Championship held recently in Syria.

The Queen voiced her appreciation of the Jordanian participants' efforts that helped them to achieve success.

The women participants won four gold medals in the championship held on March 18.

The Queen presented the players with token gifts in recognition of their endeavours.

The chairman of the Jordanian Athletics Federation presented the Queen with the federation's shield in appreciation of her continued support for sports activities in the Kingdom.

## Hmoud, Ajlouni visit forests near King Talal Dam

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Hassan Hmoud and Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni Monday paid an inspection tour of the Wadi Tal and Al Rumman Forests near the King Talal Dam.

The two ministers inspected areas around the dam visited by vacationers, and a nursery for producing saplings.

Later they opened a school in Salt and the Spring Festival organised by the agricultural department.

The two ministers visited the Department of Agriculture at the Jordan Valley and met with members of a local society for cattle and stock breeders.

## Hamzeh opens Rishah Centre

AQABA (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh opened Al Rishah Health Centre at Wadi Araba district 85 kilometres away from Aqaba.

The Rishah Centre offers medical treatment, laboratory tests and other services to at least 5,000 inhabitants in the village of Wadi Araba.

The centre was set up by the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) and handed over to the Health Ministry.

After the inauguration the minister toured health centres in Aqaba and heard requests from local officials and doctors.

## Service stations to leave Madaba's Petra Street

MADABA (Petra) — Madaba District Governor Khalil Khreisat has decided that auto service stations found at Petra Street be removed to the vehicles zone for the sake of safeguarding public safety.

The district governor urged owners of these service, and petrol stations and factories to abide by regulations set by the district's public safety committee.

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

**SHARIF ZAID:** Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Monday opened Al Hussein Hall and the new administration building at the Martyr Faisal II College. Sharif Zaid toured the various sections of the hall which groups various pavilions containing books, photos and national documents about the Great Arab Revolt and the life of His Majesty King Hussein.

**FAYEZ MOURIS:** Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayez Monday mourned the death of former Jerusalem Deputy Eshak Khader Duzdar who died Saturday.

**WATER INSTALLATIONS:** Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhan Monday inspected water installations and a wastewater treatment plant at Deir Alla and 'Zai in the Balqa Governorate. The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary General and members of a special technical committee, set up by the Prime Minister, to carry out a study of a report on the water situation in Deir Alla as presented by a British consultancy group, accompanied the minister.

**147 SCHOOL ROOMS:** Work has started on 147 school rooms at 54 villages in Mafrqa Governorate at the cost of JD 735,000 designed to offer educational facilities to 5,000 male and female students at various stages. The Ministry of Education is building the classes which will be annexes to existing schools in these villages and are needed to cater for more demands on basic education.

**CULTURAL TIES:** The Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) director Monday discussed with Swiss ambassador in Amman Harold Borner coordination of activities in culture and arts between the centre and concerned Swiss institutions. The RCC director expressed the centre's readiness to receive Swiss art troupes. A troupe from Switzerland will perform at the centre in June.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:** Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Director General Mervad Al Tal discussed with a senior official from the Ministry of Economic Cooperation in West Germany, currently on a visit to Jordan, the organisation's needs in the field of technical assistance for its projects. Mr. Tal said that the JCO was seeking to benefit from the experience of German institutions especially in setting up three automated stations in Tafleh, Mafrqa and Azraq.

**ARAB CITIES:** Jordan is taking part in a three-day meeting of the Arab Cities Organisation Permanent Bureau which began Monday in Tunis. The meetings are discussing topics related to the activities of the Fund for Development of Arab Cities and loans given to Arab cities.

**COMPUTER NETWORKS:** A training course in telecommunications and computer networks began Monday at the Jordan Institute of Management. Taking part in the course are 13 managers and programmers from various industrial, trade and government institutions.

**MEDICAL EDUCATION:** A workshop on medical education opened at the University of Jordan Monday. Participants in the two-week workshop are 60 staff members of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Jordan.

**OIL AVAILABLE:** A source at the Civil Service Consumer Cooperation announced Sunday that local olive oil is now available at the different centres of the cooperation society.

**BANK DONATION:** The Bank of Jordan donated JD 25,000 to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian national uprising in the occupied territories, in addition to a personal donation of JD 25,000 by the bank's chairman of the board Tawfik Fakhoury. The employees of the Bank of Jordan also donated one day salary for the coming eight months in support of the uprising.

**DOCTORS TO REPORT AIDS:** The Ministry of Health has called upon doctors in the private sector to treat acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) as an infectious disease that has to be reported to the ministry immediately.

**GCC CHIEF TO SPEAK:** Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General Abdullah Bishara will hold a lecture on "the experience of the GCC and legitimacy of regional cooperation," Tuesday at the invitation of the Strategic Studies Centre.

**HAMMOURI:** Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri Sunday left for Cairo to take part in a four-day seminar on international commercial arbitration and encouraging and protecting investments. The seminar is being organised by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

**DOCTORS FOR LIBYA:** The first batch of Jordanian doctors and specialists on contract to work in Libya left for Tripoli Sunday. The batch, comprising 34 doctors, will be employed at Libya's Ministry of Health hospitals and health centres according to an agreement signed with 160 Jordanian doctors last month. The Libyan health minister who will come to Amman in the coming week, to take part in the Arab Health Ministers Council meeting is expected to discuss with the Jordanian health authorities the prospect of employing more Jordanian doctors and specialists in Libya.

**TAWJITHI EXAMS:** Ministry of Education sources said Sunday that a total of 49,921 students will sit for the ministry's Tawjithi examination due to begin on June 19. They said that another 54,540 students will sit for the secondary stage admission examination at the same time.



A huge crowd Monday attends the ceremony honouring the Palestinian women martyrs (Petra photo)

## Dajani visits Irbid governorate

IRBID (Petra) — Interior Minister Rajai Dajani Monday paid an inspection visit to Irbid Governorate and met with the governor and district governors.

The minister stressed the benefits and usefulness of the newly formed Consultative Council in the Irbid Governorate, as a pioneer body that cooperates with the public and the govern-

ment in meeting the local population's needs.

The minister said the government seeks opening agricultural roads "with a view to promote farming which forms the pillar of the national economy and helps to ensure food security."

The governor who spoke at the meeting outlined the governorate's agricultural achievements,

and plans for implementing tourist projects, while the mayor spoke about water and sewerage projects in Irbid and problems encountered in the implementation of these projects.

The president of Irbid's Chamber of Commerce briefed the meeting on the general commercial and economic situation in the Irbid governorate.

## Better horses to turn out in Petra

By Meg Abu Hamdan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Visitors to Petra Wednesday will be in for a surprise. Instead of the rather worn out, tired looking ponies that are the usual form of transport down the sig, they will see some well turned out horses dressed in their finest saddles and bridles.

These horses will be the participants of the best turned out horse competition, an event that will mark, along with a brass band, the opening in Petra of a new clinic and shelter for the horses, built by the Brooke Hospital for Animals, a London based charity.

Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, patron of the Brooke Hospital and for whom the clinic has

been named, will "select the 35 best turned out horses in the parade, the owners of which will each receive a rosette and a cash prize of JD 5. From these 35, six winners will be chosen, the first prize winner receiving JD 50, the second JD 35, the third JD 30, etc., down to the sixth place who will be awarded JD 15.

The prizes are to encourage the owners to take pride in their animals, and will not necessarily be awarded to the best bred horses. It is hoped the parade will become an annual event which will, like its counterpart in Luxor, Egypt, generate much enthusiasm to keep the horses in good condition.

In future years, saddles will also be offered as prizes in an attempt to provide the tourist

with a more comfortable ride into the sig, with something to hold onto other than a rough pad, and to provide better fitting saddles for the horses.

The Ministers of Agriculture and Tourism and a number of other government officials have been invited to the opening of the Princess Alia Clinic and also attending will be Richard Searight, The Brooke Hospital's organising secretary and Miss Chris Larner, the Brooke's resident representative in Jordan.

The parade, which begins at 12 noon, will however be open to everyone and Searight hopes that as many people as possible will come down to Petra to support what should be a very enjoyable event.

## Agriculture ministry completes new project

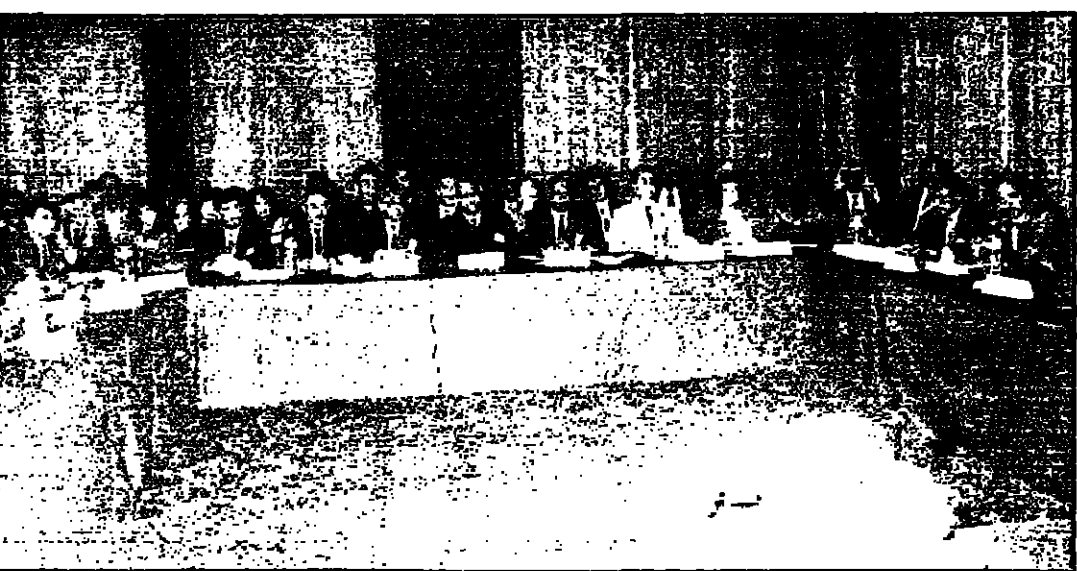
AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Agriculture has completed a project for agricultural services in the Jordan Valley, the aim of which is to develop agriculture in the valley through scientific experiments and providing advanced extension services.

Ministry Secretary General Dr. Salem Al Lawzi said that the project comprise labs for chemical and various agricultural tests, a computer centre and a library.

The project, Lawzi added, has been provided with qualified staff

who have been trained by experts from Washington University.

He called on farmers in the Jordan Valley to benefit from the project's services in solving the agricultural problems.



Heads and representatives of statistics departments in 10 Arab countries open meetings in Amman Monday (Petra photo)

## Arab delegates discuss training in statistics

AMMAN (Petra) — Heads and representatives of statistics departments in 10 Arab countries and a number of specialised regional and international organisations opened a four-day meeting in Amman Monday to discuss matters related to training at the Baghdad-based Arab Statistical Institute for Training and Research.

The participants will review a report by the institute's director general on activities for this year, a report by a technical committee on plans for 1989 and a financial

report on last year's activities. In addition, the delegates will examine and approve an estimated institute budget for 1989 and a new date for the next meeting.

The director general of the Department of Statistics said that Jordan attaches great importance to statistics, which help to work out plans for development and adopt various decisions.

"Our age is the age of scientific, and technological revolution, information and planning, which requires accurate statistics

that form the basis for plans, the director said.

Another speaker at the meeting was the institute's director who also underlined the importance of statistics which provide essential information for planners and researchers.

Delegates attending the meeting are members of the institute's board of trustees representing Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Iraq, Libya and Qatar.

## Eye specialists to meet Wednesday

AMMAN (Petra) — At least 120 Jordanian, Arab and foreign eye specialists and ophthalmologists will gather here Wednesday for the first Jordanian ophthalmology conference, to be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

At least 37 working papers will be reviewed by the participants in the three-day conference, organised by the Jordanian Ophthalmologists Association (JOA), according to Dr. Cameron Nabil, chairman of an informational committee preparing for the conference.

Nabil underlined the importance of the conference which, he

said, will open the door for the participants to exchange expertise and information on the latest trends in eye-treatment and surgery.

The working papers deal with eye ailments resulting from diabetes, hereditary diseases as well as the employment of laser beams in diagnosing ailments and treating eye inflammation and the cornea, Nabil said.

During the conference, two specialised seminars will be held and a medical exhibition, displaying medicines and equipment used in the treatment of eyes, will be organised, Nabil noted.

He said that sensitivity and

inflammation of the eye are among the main diseases from which Jordanians suffer but there are hereditary diseases and squint eye problems that will be tackled as well, among others.

The JOA was established in 1972 and now has 66 members from the public and private sectors, according to the association president, Dr. Abdul Mu'iz Shawar.

The association, he said, organises training courses and seminars and invites eye specialists from other countries to lecture in Jordan as part of its various activities.

## Queen distributes shields of honour to women from martyrs' towns, villagers

By Sana Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday paid tribute to Palestinian women martyrs who sacrificed their lives during the current uprising against Israeli occupation, and distributed shields of honour to women from their towns and villages.

Queen Noor distributed 23 shields in a ceremony to honour Palestinian women martyrs and three for women serving terms in Israeli prisons.

Speaking at the ceremony were the Minister of Labour and Social Development, Rashid Ureikat, Noor Al Hussein Foundation Director In'am Al Mufti, the General Federation of Jordanian Women President Haifa Al Bashir, and the Professional and Working Women's Club Director Buthaina Jaraneh.

Ureikat paid tribute to the "mothers who encourage their children to martyrdom and eternal recognition on the path of liberation of land and man in the West Bank and Gaza."

The minister said during the ceremony organised by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and Professional and Working Women's Club: "The essence of life is taking the right stand when the homeland needs pure blood... and the stone is a well-aimed bullet in the hands of people with a rightful claim."

The minister added that Jordanian women on the East Bank of the river stand in total solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian women in the West Bank. "A thousand greetings to the sisters, mothers and daughters who chose their position in their escalating struggle and effective role towards the achievement of liberation of the land from Israeli occupation."

In her speech, Mufti said the news transmitted on television stations all over the world shows the heroic deeds by Palestinian men, women and children without fear from the different forms of oppression, torture, deportation and martyrdom.

"The escalation of the uprising and its widening maturity has

made the world pay attention and reconsider its position after seeing the truth. For the first time, official and unofficial international organisations and societies are standing by the Palestinian causes and are supporting the Palestinian legitimate rights," Mufti noted.

She added that it is also the first time that the international community condemns Israeli oppressive practices against unarmed Palestinian people living in the occupied territories.

"This international position has to be supported and fed by us through our united support for the uprising, so that the uprising would bear fruit," Mufti stressed.

Bashir delivered a poetic speech, in which she said that the

popular uprising in the occupied territories is saturated with nationalistic indications and that it is a significant struggle based on historic rights.

"The heroes of the uprising grew up in a land of anger because of the oppressive measures under which they live," Bashir said.

Bashir praised the steadfastness of the Palestinians under occupation saying: "A new generation has united in hope. Unarmed and except for their faith in justice are ready to give their blood and embrace martyrdom."

Poet and adviser at the Prime Ministry Haydar Mahmud recited a poem he had written in which he criticised the Arab countries for their state of idleness towards the uprising and Palestinian revolution.

Another poem was recited by a daughter of a martyr, Lana, 6, on "Af'al Al Hijara" (the children of stones), making the auditorium roar with applause.

Also attending the ceremony were Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin, former Information Minister Laila Sharaf, and other officials.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday gives a shield of honour to one of the women from the home town of the martyrs (Petra photo)

## Sheikh Saeh meets U.N. delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Abdul Hamid Al Saeh met here Monday with a 10-member U.N. fact-finding mission touring the region to investigate Israel's practices in the occupied Arab territory.

Sheikh Saeh talked about the suffering of the Palestinian peoples under occupation and Israeli repressive measures against people taking part in the uprising.

Members of the fact-finding mission later met with United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) director in Jordan, and heard a briefing on the conditions of refugee camps in the East Bank and services offered to them in cooperation with the Jordanian government.

## Swiss economic delegation visits RSS

AMMAN (Petra and J.T.) — A Swiss economic delegation led by Under Secretary of the Ministry of Economy Sylvio Arioli Monday called at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and met with its acting president who briefed them on the society's programmes.

The two sides discussed scopes of cooperation between the RSS and Swiss economic, scientific and technological institutions.

The delegation members later toured a number of the RSS departments.

The Swiss delegation, which is due to leave for home Tuesday, had met with Jordanian ministers to discuss mutual cooperation, and visited a number of economic and development projects in the port city of Aqaba.

One of the projects visited in Aqaba was the RSS's solar research station.

During their talks with Jordanian officials, the Swiss delegation discussed means of spending a loan of 60 million Swiss francs.

## 32,000 more post office boxes made available

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications has made available an additional 32,000 post office boxes at post offices around the Kingdom, thus raising the total number to more than 100,000.

The announcement was made by Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan who said that 51,000 of these post office boxes are in the Amman area alone.

"The Ministry of Telecommunications is keen on providing the best services for the public

and facilitating their mail services," Haj Hassan said.

But he said his ministry has 3,500 applications by members of the public wishing to have post office boxes, and all requesting to have their boxes at the nearest post office to their homes. This creates a problem for the ministry which cannot add many more boxes to the existing post offices to make them cope with the demand, but boxes can be acquired at new post offices to open in other districts.

## New law seeks to raise revenues from tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — A new law on tourism in Jordan is designed to upgrade and promote the work of all tourist activities and sectors to increase the industry's revenues for the national economy, Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni said Sunday evening.

Ajlouni was addressing an annual reception held at Amra Hotel in Amman by the Jordanian Hoteliers Club.

The minister underlined the importance of the participation in all tourist activities to improve

the level of services offered to visitors and tourists, and to overcome problems that have been impeding the development of this industry.

"Jordan's stability and security are instrumental in encouraging the development of the tourism industry," Ajlouni noted.

The reception was attended by members of the Jordan Hotels Association, the Jordan Travel Agents Association and Ministry of Tourism officials.

## Experts discuss modern trends in specifications

AMMAN (Petra) — A five-day seminar on developing activities of standardisation and metrology departments in the Arab World held two sessions Monday and reviewed five working papers.

One of the papers dealt with the activities of the Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (AOSM), and another tackled modern trends in working out and coordinating standards and specifications.

The seminar which opened here Sunday is attended by specialists from Arab and foreign countries.

Among the main speakers at Sunday's session was Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbara who called for efforts to be made in promoting national industry through unified sets of standards and specifications for the Arab World.

**Jordan Times**  
Tel: 667171-6, 670141-4,  
666265-2



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab newspaper published daily in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Responsible Editor and Director General:

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Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the

Jordan Times advertising department.

### Another guest bearing gifts?

WITH world attention alternating between the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and the Iran-Iraq missile barrage in the Gulf, an obvious new element appears to have either been overlooked or very conveniently ignored — that the Iranians are showing signs of new strength in the air. It was not one year ago that military experts and strategists had ruled that Iran's air force was almost totally grounded by a chronic shortage of spares for its American-built warplanes. The widely accepted fact was that the Iranians would be hard-pressed to mobilise any air power worth its name, what with the much publicised Irangate affair. But, the scenario appears to have changed in the last few weeks; the Iranians are displaying a new level of air power, with attacks by F-2 Phantoms, F-5 Eagles, and more significantly, F-14 Tomcats, which, everybody believed, would remain on the ground with vital spares missing. In February, Tehran claimed at least four dogfights and Iranian F-4s hit at least two tankers in the northern Gulf. Now, with the Tehran-Baghdad missile slugging match on in earnest, Iran has stepped up bombing sorties by its warplanes — something no-one would have expected three months ago.

What does it all say? It does not seem likely that Iran has developed its own spare parts for the aircraft. The spares have to come from outside; but from whom? From international arms merchants? Not likely, for the simple reason that spares for advanced fighter/bomber aircraft are not available in the marketplace, as are machineguns or bullets or artillery pieces. So, it suggests an obvious conclusion: That the spares had to come from the original sources that produced the planes, namely the U.S. Aren't we overlooking the public statements that Washington would no longer supply any weapons or spares to the Iranians, in exchange for hostages or otherwise?

We can see at least one party — Israel — which has a supply of similar equipment, and which would be more than glad to oblige the Iranians, with or without consent from the equipment's source. Or were there any recent visitors to Tehran, with a new cake and a Bible atop a fully-loaded transport plane?

Someone is fooling us out there in the Gulf. On the one hand, there is talk of making progress towards imposing an arms embargo on Iran for its refusal to heed the call for peace, while on the other we also witness unmistakable signs of major loopholes in Iranian armour being plugged. Do we assume that few people in the West or the East, except the Arab World, want an end to the bloody conflict in the Gulf?

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

#### Al Ra'i: Martyrs for freedom

THE Palestinian people Sunday offered seven martyrs who joined their brothers and sisters in the long procession towards victory and freedom. The uprising which the Palestinian people have been maintaining over the past months has shed the blood of many of those who are determined to end Israeli occupation and who can not capitulate before the Israeli atrocities. Among the martyrs were old people and children who did not allow despair to infiltrate into their hearts, but are still determined to defend their homeland. These martyrs thwarted Israeli dreams of finding a land without people by their courage and by their sacrifice. As for the Israelis, they are well trained in murder and in committing atrocities; and murder is not a mere hobby for them but an expression of the Zionist ideology and an exercise directed against the world community which they disregard. The Israelis are used to killing children, women and old people, using bullets and gas and other means to break the bones of people and to stifle their spirit of resistance. In so doing they are making a mockery of the claim that Israel is a democratic state, and they are proving beyond doubt that they are racists, committed to work against other peoples to serve their own purpose and objectives. With the fall of more Arab martyrs we feel more confident of the victory that awaits the Arab people of Palestine, and with the new group of martyrs the uprising is bound to escalate and intensify.

#### Al Dstour: Israel continues the killings

THE Israeli forces Sunday waged a bloody war against the Arab people in Palestine firing on civilians and killing and wounding many of them. It was a massacre committed before the eyes of the world against a defenceless people living under occupation. There is no doubt that Israel is maintaining its current policy of breaking bones of young people, killing others, detaining thousands of men and women, encouraged by the fact that the world is just looking on and doing nothing to stop these atrocities. Israel is encouraged in particular by the unlimited support and backing it continues to obtain from the United States which provides protection to the Zionist state at the U.N. Security Council and other world forums. What is more, Israel is encouraged to commit further crimes against the Palestinians in view of the silent Arab countries which have failed to respond strongly to Israel's crimes and unable to extend a helping hand to the Palestinians in their present struggle for freedom. The Israelis are thus being encouraged to carry out murders and crimes against the Palestinians and they violate human rights at will. We are, however, reconciled by the fact that the uprising is gaining momentum every day with the Palestinians showing more determination to pursue the struggle for freedom. The uprising is indeed making Israel pay a heavy price for its long occupation of their Palestinian land.

#### Sawt Al Shaab: A pressing need for peace

AS the days go by the need for establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East becomes more and more urgent, specially in view of Israel's continued aggression on the Arab World. Jordan's endeavours, spearheaded by King Hussein on the Arab and Islamic fronts are clearly aimed at reactivating the peace process to forestall Israel's attempts to achieve partial settlements that can achieve no real peace. The need for peace becomes essential in view of the sacrifices offered by the Palestinian people who are maintaining their uprising in the face of Israeli occupation. King Hussein has stressed through his Arab and Islamic tours that the Arab-Israeli conflict should be ended through a lasting and comprehensive settlement that can be agreed on at an international conference, and with the participation of all parties to the conflict. Jordan has succeeded at the Arab and Islamic levels to gain support and backing for the idea of the projected conference and succeeded in unifying the Arab and Islamic countries' stands with regard to the common interests and the confrontation of the common challenges.

## Israeli-made 'school for hatred'

The following article is reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post.

By Bradley Burston

MINUTES FROM the heart of Gaza City, a new military force is quietly, irrevocably, taking shape with scores of draftees arriving every night. For the moment the outfit lacks a formal name, but odds are that what is being formed here — right under the noses of the Shin Bet and the IDF Southern Command — is nothing less than the future army of Palestine.

Its base, perhaps more accurately its "academy," for junior officers is not hidden from view although it is the site of detailed and intensive courses in such subjects as introductory Palestinian nationalism and making explosives in one's own home. In fact, it shares its "campus" with an Israeli military installation: The coastal Detention Facility, better known as Ansar 2.

To be sure, the IDF planners of this tiny, tough beachfront rectangle could not have foreseen that a holding pen for suspected rock-throwers would develop into, perhaps the single most efficient operational institution for the indoctrination of Gaza youth. But then as one local activist has observed, "The Jews have had to get used to more than one surprise over the last three months."

Ansar 2 first attracted public attention long before the *intifada* flooded its confines with new recruits. Early last year, allegations of mistreatment of detainees there were so widespread that OC Southern Command Yitzhak Mordechai personally ordered an investigation to reported abuses and a concurrent cover-up attempt by camp staff.

In the end, six soldiers were court-martialed for a range of physical and verbal humiliations, among them the use of a 12-year-old detainee as a "football" in a pick-up "soccer game," a karate-style beating of a row of handcuffed, nearly naked inmates by a military police sergeant shouting "I'm Bruce Lee!" and a corporal who played what he called "ping-pong" with a 14-year-old prisoner, choking him, slapping him, and pushing him against the walls of his room.

The court-martial had a moderating influence on the behaviour of camp guards — at the time, a handful of MPs and Givati Brigade soldiers under the command of a young lieutenant. But chronic overcrowding and strict, nearly round-the-clock confinement to quarters remained the dominant element of life in Ansar 2, conditions that made all but inevitable the jail's eventual emergence as a boot camp for nascent militants.

As many as 50 detainees were

packed into old barracks measuring approximately 9x15 metres. Prisoners were kept, according to regulations, inside the structures all day, with only a midnight or early dawn exercise period allowed of 10-15 minutes. Each prisoner was allowed to go to the outdoor facility once each 24 hours — provided he ran there and back. After the visit to the bathroom, inmates were forced to use a large can set in one corner of the room, which often filled to overflowing.

Ansar 2 has provided many of the inmates, then as now, with their first experience outside tight-knit family environments. The heater-skitter nature of the arrests that accompanied sporadic outbreaks of violence even prior to December often meant that bewildered boys of 12 and 13 came under the direct, charismatic influence of hardened, persuasive political activists, some of them members of the clandestine Islamic Jihad, others young leaders of PLO factions.

Hatred of "the Jews that came to Palestine from other countries to take away our land," a traditional staple of Gaza culture, took on new intensity and focus in the pressure-cooker called Ansar 2.

Soldiers demanded that detainees answer them, *Na'am*, *ya'leadi* ("Yes, sir" in Turkish). A prisoner who refused to comply or was observed walking on his daily trip to the bathroom risked hours or even days in the *zina*, a booth of one metre square, in which the inmate stood with his hands tied behind his back.

According to inmates recently released from the camp, the outbreak of the *intifada* and the IDF's difficulties in dealing with as many as 200 new additions in a single day has only added to Ansar 2's efficacy as the pre-eminent university of the uprising.

For new arrivals, a rigorous basic training of sorts is provided by security force investigators, who keep detainees isolated for periods of two to 18 days during initial interrogations.

Among the techniques reportedly used to elicit information and expedite the signing of confessions is ordering inmates to stand close to a heater then be flung out into the nearby waves in the middle of a winter night.

But the jailhouse legal association has made sizable strides in recent weeks, and inmates have learned that signing unread confession forms does not guarantee a guilty verdict in court. In case after case, defendants have told military judges that their confessions were obtained under duress and/or false promises, and have received continuances enabling them to call witnesses to testify to their having been elsewhere at

the time of the alleged offence.

Following the interrogation, a prisoner is sent to a barracks or to a tent where he will be in the intimate company of 30-60 inmates, moderates, fanatics, adolescents and fathers of four, for periods of several months or more.

Three times a day, guards bring trays of food, one tray for every five prisoners. A typical menu has an identical breakfast and supper of half an egg, jam, bread and tea. Lunch is typically timed meat, rice and a sliced apple shared five ways.

For security reasons, the two daily exercise periods have been cut to one, either at midnight or at 5 a.m., and accompanied by competition among rival Givati and Golani Brigade guards to see which soldiers can get the prisoners to sing Brigade tunes the loudest, or to repeat the largest number of obscenities referring to the prisoners' own mothers or sisters' sexual preferences.

Frequently, back in their tents, inmates listen to sermons broadcast from minaret loudspeakers from the adjacent Kitana mosque, reputed to be a stronghold of the Islamic Jihad. Mindful of the possible influence of the sermons, authorities have cut off electricity of Kitana on a number of occasions. The mosque's powerful imam, Hajazi el-Barbar, 30, jailed some 14 times in the past several years, was recently placed in six months' administrative detention in the central Gaza jail far across town, by order of Mordechai.

An equally powerful if silent symbol is located behind the mosque: The long, low former base of the Palestinian Liberation Army, the locally recruited, Egyptian-commanded, pre-1967 fighting force here.

IDF authorities, anxious to keep the PLA a thing of the past and to defuse the potential powder keg the coastal camp represents, recently recommissioned a remote former minimum security military jail, Prison 7 near Ketziot in the Negev, to serve as what is already being called Ansar 3. (The name derives from the detention camp set up in Lebanon for the thousands of Palestinian prisoners captured by the IDF during the invasion of Lebanon.)

Then, a week ago, after a nightly curfew was declared covering the whole of the Gaza Strip, convoys of dusty buses took Ansar 2 detainees to the new facility.

But, say Palestinian observers, the move to Ketziot may even intensify Ansar 2's impact as a centre of political activism, for hundreds of impressionable new arrivals have already taken the place of the inmates moved to the desert. The possibility that Ket-

ziot may represent a powerful new branch of the coastal campus is also not discounted, especially since the fortnightly visits of relatives allowed to some Ansar 2 inmates may not be permitted in the new facility.

The lack of visits, activists argue, represents a form of "para-deportation," a difficult prospect indeed for youths with strong family ties. Meanwhile, every night at around 11 p.m., more Gazans are taken from their homes and moved down the road that leads to the beach.

Increasingly over the past week, the detainees brought to Ansar 2 and then to the military courthouse are workers who have spent much of the past three months sleeping in Israel near their places of employment. Activists inside the camp are said to be pleased by their imprisonment, which affords them the opportunity to reach segments of the population that were heretofore little disposed toward politics.

In a case heard this week in the Gaza military court, Ziad al-Dra'imli, a 29-year-old father of two employed in a Tel Aviv auto body garage, was charged with having transported tyres in his Volkswagen minibus, presumably intended for use in erecting barricades.

But as al-Dra'imli told the court, in a statement confirmed by an independent investigation by The Jerusalem Post, the minibus was stolen the night of the mass resignation of the entire Gazan police force. Al-Dra'imli went to the Gaza central police station to report the theft, but was told that no complaints could be recorded due to the resignations.

Some time thereafter, the car was found by military authorities, parked under a building and loaded with tyres.

Al-Dra'imli, who had spent most of the last three months living near his Tel Aviv workplace, was arrested by the military governor of Gaza a week after the incident, interrogated at length and, by his account, beaten until he agreed to sign a confession.

Hearing the case, the judge, a quietly exasperated reserve officer, ordered a continuance, signing an order that sends al-Dra'imli back to Ansar 2.

No one in the room, including al-Dra'imli's family, registered much emotion as the hearing adjourned. The military police, the grim young military lawyers, the wry translator as well as the seven defendants about to board the bus to the beach seem to be doing nothing more than going through the motions, looking for all the world like actors trapped in a play that never should have been allowed to open.

## Regional conflicts bound to cloud summit

By Barry Schweid  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nagging disputes in Afghanistan, Central America and the Middle East are casting a long shadow over the Moscow summit only two months before President Ronald Reagan sets out on his first trip to the Soviet Union.

The outlook for a pact to sharply reduce long-range nuclear weapons is not all that bright either. The U.S. strategic defence initiative has not been swept away as an obstacle, and differences remain over how the bombers, submarines and missiles would be scrapped.

"I wouldn't want to lay you odds," was Secretary of State George P. Shultz's hesitant response to whether the treaty would be ready for Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev to sign during the May 29-June 2 summit.

Mobile missiles and sea-launched cruise missiles are hard to spot. That makes verifying compliance with the 30- to 50-per cent arms reductions more difficult than last year's treaty to ban medium-range nuclear weapons.

Experts on the two sides are still trying to mesh conflicting drafts. U.S. and Soviet negotiators in Geneva were directed by Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze to keep working at the verification problem and to report to them at their next meeting in Moscow April 21.

A treaty signing is not a prerequisite for a successful summit. Reagan and Gorbachev have plenty of issues to discuss at their fourth meeting.

But the report Shultz gave at a news conference of his talks with Shevardnadze was generally bleak. It suggested the two leaders might not have much to celebrate.

Shultz seemed taken with a promise by the foreign minister to consider changes in the way the Soviets deal with religious observances and with visa applications. Emigration of ethnic

Germans and Armenians is up, Shultz noted.

But he said Jewish emigration had reached a plateau. Besides, Shultz said of the promised reforms, "what we are interested in is delivery."

#### Afghanistan

When he turned to regional disputes, the clouds turned darker.

Gorbachev is committed to end the Red Army's intervention in Afghanistan after more than eight years of bloody strife with U.S.-backed rebels.

#### NEWS ANALYSIS

But Shultz said the United States would not concur in an agreement to end the war unless the Soviets also suspended military aid to the Marxist government in Kabul.

The main purpose of the U.S. demand is to make it easier for an estimated 5 million refugees to return home. Had Moscow

accepted, the United States would have stopped supplying Stinger missiles and other weapons to the resistance.

The moratorium would be in effect during the Soviet troop withdrawal and for three months afterward.

"They didn't feel they could agree to that," Shultz said.

And yet, he said, "those conditions are needed for us to be able to sign as a guarantor" of an international agreement to end the conflict.

At the Soviet embassy, meanwhile, Shevardnadze was taking a stiff stand.

#### C. America, Mideast

The picture in Central America and the Middle East wasn't brighter.

Shultz said the Soviets wanted U.S. military aid to an unspecified number of Central American governments halted as a condition for them to stop supplying Nicaragua for its war with contra rebels.

"It did not seem something we could pursue," Shultz said.

On the Middle East, he said Shevardnadze envisioned an active role for Moscow in Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Shultz said that would get in the way of talks between the two sides. "The Soviet concept is sharply different from ours," Shultz said.

And in the Gulf, Shultz offered only hope that Javier Perez de Cuellar, the U.N. secretary-general, would be able to persuade Iran and Iraq to end their 7-year war.

Referring to pictures of Iranian victims of alleged Iraqi chemical weapons, Shultz said: "The horrors of this war are just being borne in on us practically every day. It's hard to think it might get worse, but it does get worse."

For eight months, the United States has sought to persuade the Soviets to support an international arms embargo against Iran, which refuses to accept a ceasefire. But Shevardnadze evidently did not give in.

### OPEN FORUM

#### Do Jordanians suffer from split personalities?

IT is generalising, but seemingly true, that Jordanians are exceedingly friendly, and that a majority can read. So what causes the transformation that occurs when a Jordanian gets behind the steering wheel of a vehicle?

The hospitable, warm, friendly, polite Jordanian seems to metamorphose, a la Jekyll and Hyde, into an aggressive, horn-blowing motor-maniac whose only intent appears to be, "Get out of my way, for I am going where I am going at any cost to the nerves or fenders of anyone else on the roadway."

A man, who under ordinary circumstances, would open doors for strangers, insist on offering the ever present cup of coffee or tea, invite you to his home — and mean it — when in a car will dare you to enter a major road artery from a side street, will cut you off without so much as a signal, and will blow his overworn horn the second a traffic light turns orange.

A woman who is the most cultured of hostesses, will run a stop sign without pretence of braking, and behave as though the word "yield" were non-existent. With a car filled with school-bound children, she will enter the far left lane of a two-directional street, in order to turn left into a major thoroughfare. If you are approaching her head-on, in your lane, and in exasperation question her being there, she will yell some unintelligible (or unprintable) reply.

Taxis often pick up and discharge passengers in the middle of streets, with no pretence of pulling to the side, or of even giving a signal.

And where are the traffic police? Usually within sight. They are near corners when stop signs are regarded as mere decorations. They are standing in intersections, when lines of automobiles are in opposite-bound traffic lanes, awaiting individual chances to bully their ways into the main streets. (Of course, paradoxically, bullying is the only way to enter, as allowing a motorist the courtesy of entering your lane seems to be a Jordanian taboo.)

I have yet to see one officer correct a motorist for these common, dangerous infractions.

I do not know the statistics of deaths — or even fender-benders — in Jordan or the city of Amman. But I imagine they are inordinately high for the population.

Tell me, please. What happens to the incomparably courteous Jordanian when she/he takes the wheel of a vehicle?

C.M. Ashley

## Missing British television man seen as victim of Afghan rivalry

By Robert Mahoney  
Reuters

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — A British news cameraman feared dead after disappearing in Afghanistan appears to have been a victim of a bitter struggle for supremacy between rival Afghan guerrilla groups.

Andy Skrzypkowski, 36, disappeared last October after trekking into northeastern Afghanistan to film the war for the British Broadcasting Corporation.

He was a regular visitor to the rugged country and one of the most experienced Western journalists covering the war.

Journalists with long experience of the nine-year struggle believe Skrzypkowski was killed by radical Muslim guerrillas fighting for supremacy ahead of the proposed Soviet troop withdrawal in Afghanistan.

They cite his case as part of a persistent campaign of murder, robbery and intimidation against other guerrillas, Western reporters and foreign aid workers.

No group has claimed responsibility for the campaign. The fundamentalist Hezb-I-Islami Party has warned journalists to stop writing about accusations it was behind the campaign of intimidation.

Its leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who this month took over leadership of the seven-party guerrilla alliance fighting Kabul government and Soviet forces, last week set up a three-man commission to investigate the Skrzypkowski affair.

Journalists, relief agencies and diplomats in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar have no proof Skrzypkowski is dead but a guerrilla statement spoke of his "assassination" and said the "murderers" would be punished.

#### Caught in the crossfire

Skrzypkowski was hiking through the Hindu Kush mountains near Kantiwa village, an area controlled by Hezb-I-Islami commander Haji Ghafur, according to his wife Chris Gregory and several journalists.

He was trekking north to film one of the rebels' most effective field commanders, Ahmad Shah Masood, a charismatic man in his late 30s who has forced peasants and guerrillas in five northern provinces into a tightly-knit resistance movement.

Masood belongs to the Jamiat-I-Islami group which has often quarrelled with its alliance partner Hezb-I-Islami.

"Hekmatyar can't stand Masood and his success," said a long-time Afghan watcher who asked not to be named. "Hezb-I-Islami has stopped supply convoys to Masood and tried to stop reporters reaching him."

Details of Skrzypkowski's disappearance surfaced after Paki-

tani police detained two Afghans who crossed the border with a large amount of cash they admitted stealing from a French medical team in Afghanistan.

A senior police officer told Reuters two Afghans were in detention but he would not give any details.

Westerners with police contacts said the two had told police how Skrzypkowski ignored warnings from guerrillas near Kantiwa to turn back.

The sources said that on October 12 or 13 rebels dropped a boulder on Skrzypkowski while he was sleeping out in the open. They buried his body in a nearby valley and left.

Hekmatyar denied any Hezb-I-Islami involvement in Skrzypkowski's disappearance.

"These are irresponsible, baseless accusations. Our people would never do such a thing," he told Reuters.

#### Political ruthlessness

"The details of this death will be investigated... the guilty will be tried under (Islamic) sharia law and punished," he said.

Diplomats, aid workers and journalists believe Hekmatyar, 38, has the political acumen and ruthlessness to make a bid for the leadership of any guerrilla government in Kabul after a Soviet withdrawal.

They say his Hezb-I-Islami Party spends more time fighting other resistance members than the Soviets, and has attacked foreign aid workers and supply convoys heading for rival groups.

Peshawar-based leaders such as Hekmatyar derive their power from their control over the distribution of arms and funds to field commanders.

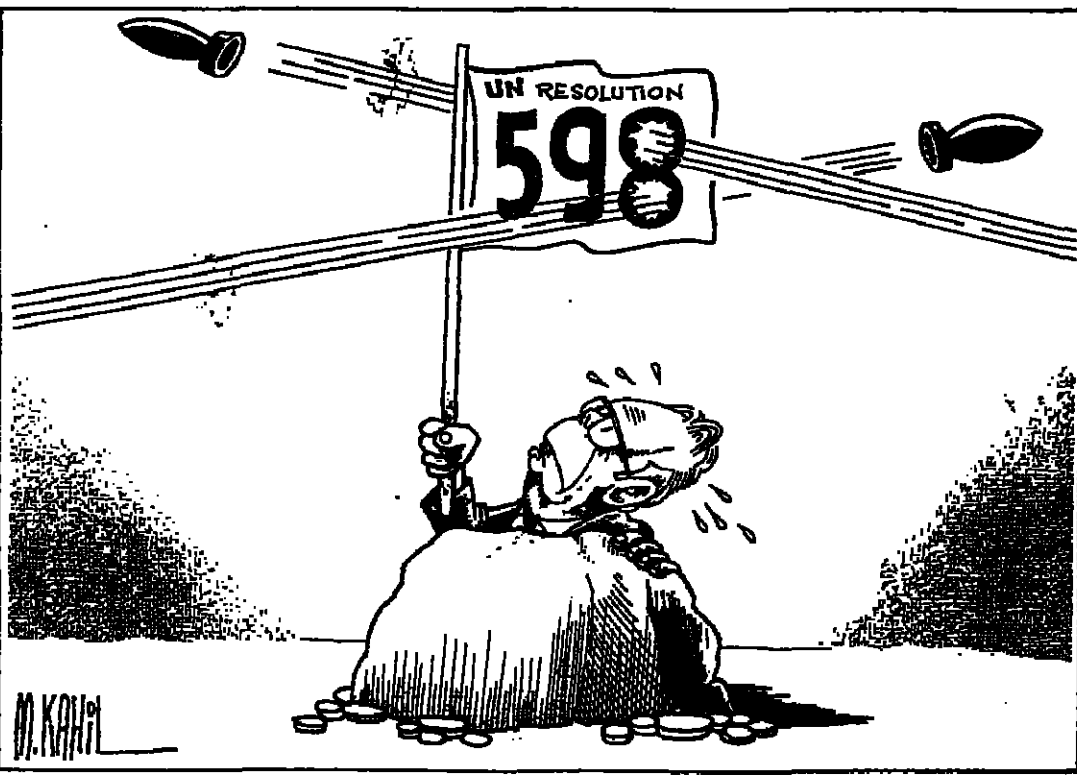
Western diplomatic and aid sources say Hekmatyar receives about 30 per cent of guerrilla aid which comes mainly from the United States, conservative Arab countries and China.

Hezb-I-Islami was the first group to get U.S. Stinger anti-aircraft missiles. Last month the party's newspaper, The Resistance, cited articles by several Western journalists and warned against printing further "baseless propaganda... otherwise events will take (their) logical course."

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists asked Hekmatyar this month to help stop the intimidation of reporters.

It also urged him to help find the killers of Bahauddin Majrooh, a respected Afghan moderate whose monthly news bulletin on the war was essential reading for Afghan watchers.

Majrooh, who infuriated Hezb-I-Islami with a recent poll saying most refugees supported former Afghan King Zahir Shah, was shot dead at his Peshawar home on February 11.



Handwritten text in Arabic script: "سأكون معكم في كل وقت" (I will be with you at all times).



## Hardliners gain ground in Iran ahead of parliamentary election

By Ed Blanche  
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — Muslim extremists are expected to increase their influence on the Iranian government during a crucial parliamentary election next month.

The April 8 vote also will prepare a new generation of leaders to take over after the aging Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini dies.

Hardliners, such as Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, who has close links to pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim militants holding foreign hostages in Lebanon, are expected to make some gains.

Extremists have "been coming out of the shadows in the last eight months or so," said Gary Sick, a former U.S. national security adviser who specializes in Iranian affairs.

"They're certainly being heard and are more prominent now," he said in a telephone interview from his New York home. "It's not clear how dominant a position they now have in the decision-making process, but they have a tremendous

land and industrial reform, nationalisation and social change.

Among the candidates announced so far are Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, hardline anti-American radical Hadi Ghafari, Mohammad Yazdi, a former central committee member of the now disbanded Islamic Republic Party.

### Women included

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, said this week the candidates also included, for the first time, 34 women, mainly from Tehran and the northeastern city of Mashhad, one of the hotbeds of revolutionary Islam.

Rafsanjani, Prime Minister Hussein Musavi, President Ali Khamenei, and Chief Justice Ayatollah Mussavi Ardebili, as heads of identifiable factions have been manoeuvring for months to shape and dominate the next Majlis.

Khamenei, 48, is serving his second four-year term as president and is constitutionally barred from running again in the next presidential election in 1989.

His political base was seriously weakened last June when Khomeini disbanded the Islamic Republic Party, which the president headed.

Khomeini, 87 and reported in poor health, said he disbanded the party, the vehicle used by Iran's clerics to seize political power in the early days of the revolution, because it was riven by factionalism.

Rafsanjani, who also has strong support in the Majlis, is looking ahead to the presidential election and wants to replace Khamenei with one of his allies.

### Bazargan heads tiny faction

With the non-Islamic elements who helped put Khomeini in power systematically eliminated in bloody purges, the only opposition party permitted is the Freedom Movement, a tiny anti-war faction led by Mehdi Bazargan.

The veteran liberal politician was Iran's first post-revolution prime minister. But he quit in protest against the storming of the U.S. embassy in November 1979 by Khomeini's loyalists.

Despite constant harassment, he and his followers remain a faint voice of dissent.

The Majlis has wide constitutional powers, unlike the rubber-stamp body it became under the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. But it has little decision-making power regarding the conduct of the war.

The Council of Guardians, a 13-member body dominated by conservative clerics, has blocked parliamentary efforts to push through sweeping economic reforms, underlining the conflict between the radicals, led by Musavi and others, and the more traditionalist factions.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

impact, and that could have an effect on the elections.

The candidates who will run for the 270-seat single-chamber Majlis (parliament) will not be campaigning on party tickets in the Western style because there are no formal political parties in Iran.

But they represent factions that reflect various shades of Islamic radicalism in a contest for control of the Majlis, which will play an important role in the post-Khomeini era.

"Any election in Iran is important," Sick said. "The most important thing is that the Iranians do have reasonably open elections."

He added: "There's always a certain amount of fixing, but considering they're in the middle of a war and all the in-fighting among the hierarchy, it's interesting that they're having an election at all."

Membership of the Majlis, elected on a one-man, one-vote system, has become increasingly controlled by the government, and only approved candidates can run. About 20 million to 25 million people vote in Iran.

### Major issues

The elections, the third since Khomeini's 1979 Islamic revolution toppled the monarchy, will be held against a backdrop of the 7½ year-old war with Iraq, the growing international isolation of Khomeini's fundamentalist government and worsening economic woes.

But the main issues, in public at least, will be



An Israeli soldier raises his club against defiant Palestinian women waving the Palestinian flag in the face of an Israeli patrol in the occupied West Bank village of Abu Dis.

## Vanunu's brother says Israel poses nuclear challenge

LONDON (Agencies) — The brother of Mordechai Vanunu, who was jailed for 18 years Sunday for leaking Israel's atomic secrets, said the imprisoned man wanted a nuclear-free Middle East and the world must take up the challenge.

"This trial began by kidnapping, continued in total secrecy and ended by putting the narrow interests of the state before the interests of humanity," Meir Vanunu said in London.

"Legally, it is only the end of a chapter. Our struggle to free Mordechai continues," Vanunu said in a statement.

"Politically, by this trial Israel has admitted it has the bomb. It was my brother's wish to make the Middle East nuclear free. It is up to the rest of the world to pick up this challenge," he said.

Mordechai Vanunu, 34, worked at Israel's top-secret Dimona nuclear reactor in the Naqab desert for nine years before telling London's Sunday Times in September 1986 that the Zionist state produced up to 200 atomic bombs in 20 years.

Before the Sunday Times article was published, Vanunu disappeared from London and later turned up in Israel as a prisoner.

When he was first taken to court he displayed a message scribbled on the palm of his hand saying he had been abducted in Rome.

He was convicted of treason and espionage last week after a trial held behind closed doors and shrouded in secrecy and military censorship.

Vanunu's lawyer said Sunday he hoped to appeal to Israel's supreme court this week against the sentence.

Meir Vanunu said Sunday he had no confidence his brother would be freed on appeal because Israeli society refused to consider the human aspects of the case and the importance of the nuclear issue.

"Legally, we have the right to appeal, and we'll appeal," Meir Vanunu said. "But I personally don't want to rely on the legal system in Israel."

"The court itself lives within the society of Israel, and the society of Israel thinks in narrow terms of their own interests and refused really to look at all the human aspects of this case, including the importance of the nuclear issue," he said.

In response to questions from the AP, Vanunu said he had asked the Italian and British governments to intervene to return his brother to Europe, where he was allegedly kidnapped in September 1986 after giving the interview to the Sunday Times.

Vanunu says his brother was lured to Rome by an American woman named Cindy, then kidnapped by Israeli Mossad agents, who spirited him back to Israel.

"It's the responsibility of the British and Italian governments to take some diplomatic steps, or any kind of action, to clear up this situation and demand the return of Mordechai to Europe, where he was taken from," Vanunu said.

## Beirut statement claims Alitalia attack in Bombay

BEIRUT (R) — A previously unknown group claimed responsibility in Beirut Monday for a pistol and hand grenade attack at Bombay airport last Friday.

"We claim responsibility for the attack launched against a group of Zionist pilots working at the Italian airlines (Alitalia)," said a statement by the "Organisation of Arab Fedayeen Cells."

An Arabic-speaking man who gave his name as Abbas Mohammad Ali Shahadi shot and seriously wounded Vittorio Santanelli, an Alitalia pilot, aboard an airport bus.

Bombay police said the gun jammed after three or four shots and Shahadi jumped off the bus. He tossed two grenades, which failed to explode, at two off-duty

policemen who chased and caught him.

The Italian embassy in New Delhi said police had been unable to discover the gunman's nationality or motive. Police said he had only given them his name and no identity papers were found on him.

"The attack was in retaliation for the frantic campaign waged by the Zionists and imperialists against the Arab Nation," the statement delivered Monday said.

"We will chase the Zionists and their allies. We warn the Italian government against submitting to the Zionist and American will, otherwise they will harm the interests of the friendly Italian people," it added.

## Turkish police capture 1 of 29 jailbreakers

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish police recaptured one of 29 left-wing militants who escaped from a top-security military prison in Istanbul four days ago, the Anatolian news agency said Monday.

Saban Ozbek, a member of the banned Dev-Yol (Revolutionary Path) group, was captured Sunday night near his parents' home in Istanbul, the agency quoted police officials as saying.

Ozbek was serving a life sentence before the Thursday night escape. Eleven of the other fugitives were sentenced to death for crimes of political violence before a 1980 military takeover.

The militants cut through iron window bars at the Metris prison and, in what Defence Minister Ercan Vuralhan said was a "very audacious and big affair," escaped through a 60-metre tunnel they dug.

Interior Minister Mustafa Kalemli, who was supervising an investigation and manhunt for the group, said Sunday: "If we can catch just one, the whole affair will be easily solved."

A caller claiming to speak for Tikko, the Turkish Workers Peasants Liberation Army to which 18 of the escaped prisoners belonged, told the Popular Gunes newspaper Sunday Tikko would launch a nationwide guerrilla offensive.

"The great escape of our friends is evidence of the strength of our army," the Tikko caller said.

Tikko is the small, hardcore military wing of the outlawed Turkish Communist Party-Marxist Leninist (TKP-ML).

Weekend police leave was cancelled and in Ankara special units manned key points of the capital to protect ministries and foreign

## Arab bows and arrows alarm Israeli police

TEL AVIV (R) — Police in northern Israel have urged the government to require buyers of bows and arrows to obtain licences after Arabs in the area bought up large numbers of the sets, Israel's Itim news agency said.

It said Israeli officers in upper Galilee told interior ministry officials the archery equipment could be lethal when fired at a distance of 20 to 40 metres. The sets cost about \$50.

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have used an array of primitive weapons against Israelis, including axes, iron rods and nail-studded road obstacles, during the 15-week uprising.

At least 117 Palestinians have been killed in the unrest. An Israeli soldier was shot dead.

Itim said the law does not regard bows and arrows as weapons because they do not have a barrel.

The acquisition by Arabs of bows and arrows came ahead of Land Day on March 30, which has been marked annually by Israel's Arabs since the first such protest in 1976, when six Arabs were killed in widespread violence in Galilee over government land seizures.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said in an interview with the daily newspaper Maariv: "If the Arabs of Israel don't come to their senses, reality will be harder and laden with impending disaster."

"In any event, there are people there with sense too. I am not afraid. A test of strength between us and them is like a contest between an elephant and a fly."

In a rare move, Israeli troops will be drafted into the Galilee area, where many Arabs live, to back 4,000 police in anticipation of trouble there, sources said.

A helicopter-borne reserve of police mobile units will be on alert to intervene in any areas if there is serious trouble, sources quoted by Reuters said. All police leave has been cancelled.

Approximately 700,000 Arabs have Israeli nationality.

Their main concentration is in Galilee, where demographers say there will be a million Arabs by the end of the century, out-

numbering Jews in the area.

Two of the four officially authorised rallies for Land Day will be in Galilee.

At least 1,500 police will be deployed around Galilee, sources said.

Police have detained scores of political activists among Israeli Arabs in recent days, allegedly in connection with incidents on or since Dec. 21, when Israeli Arabs held a day of solidarity with Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Virtually all Israeli Arabs staged strikes and closed shops on that day, but there were incidents in only half a dozen of the approximately 60 or 70 Arab towns and villages in Israel.

Organisers of Land Day rallies said the December incidents were the work of a handful of extremists linked to radical Palestinian groups.

Most Israeli Arabs vote for the Rakah Communist Party or the leftist Progressive List for Peace (PLP).

### Guard sentenced

In another development, an Israeli soldier who abandoned his guard post during a commando attack that claimed the lives of six of his comrades was sentenced to 18 months in prison, Israeli media reports said.

A military court in Jaffa Sunday found Ron Almog guilty of "shameful behaviour" during a military operation and of abandoning his post while confronting an enemy. "Israeli Radio" said.

The court sentenced Almog to three years in jail, of them 1½ years in suspended sentence. The charges carried a maximum penalty of 15 years in jail.

Almog guarded the main gate of a military base in northern Israel last Nov. 25, when a Palestinian commando flew his hang glider into Israel from Lebanon.

## Israeli army seals off occupied territories

(Continued from page 1)

Arabs in the town of Bethlehem as they emerged from Palm Sunday mass at the Church of the Nativity, the traditional site of Jesus' birth, Palestinian witnesses and a detainee who was released early Monday said.

Some boys were detained in the doorway of the church by troops searching for Palestinians who protested earlier in Manger Square, said the 14-year-old detainee, who would give only his first name, Tawfik.

"I was in the door of the Nativity Church. They took me and put me in a jeep. They beat me with riot clubs and the butt of their guns," said Tawfik, who was released soon after midnight.

In a continued mass arrest campaign targeted at underground leaders of the uprising, troops have detained hundreds of Palestinians since the weekend, Israel Radio said.

Twenty-five Palestinians from the Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip and 10 from the West Bank village of Idna near Hebron were arrested overnight, according to the Palestine Press Service and other Arab reports.

### Safit boy dies

A 19-year-old Palestinian, meanwhile, died of wounds he suffered during a clash Sunday in the West Bank village of Safit. Hussein Kamel Odeh died of a gunshot wound to the heart, Israel Radio and the Palestine Press Service said.

The army said villagers attacked troops who came to rescue a tour bus that mistakenly entered the village.

But 10 American and European academics on the bus denied the army report and said troops used their presence as a pretext to raid the village. Another 14-year-old Arab boy also died in the clash.

"We are deeply distressed to learn from media reports that the army entered the village under the pretext of protecting our 'tourist bus,'" a statement issued by the academics said.

The academics, who were participating in a forum on the West Bank sponsored by Birzeit University, "spent about 45 minutes in the village and were graciously received," Don Peretz, a professor at State University of New York in Binghamton, said in an interview.

He said troops then escorted the bus out of the village without incident and as they were leaving,

the academics saw an army convoy enter Safit.

The 1.5 million Palestinians in the occupied areas observed a

near total commercial and transport strike Monday, as part of the 15-week-old uprising against Israeli rule.

## Arafat: Shultz recognises role

(Continued from page 1)

peace negotiations," Maariv reported.

### Letter of invitation

Shultz is expected to bring the text of a letter of invitation to an international conference and would ask Shamir for approval, an Israeli official told the AP on condition of anonymity.

Shamir may still seek to put off a formal decision on the U.S. plan until the Americans present the invitation to the Soviets for their approval, the official said.

The official said Shultz pledged to Shamir in the United States that he would not issue a letter of invitation without Israel's approval. But he said Shultz could still change his position on that issue.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shi-

mon Peres, who supports the U.S. plan, walked out of the cabinet meeting Sunday after a clash with Likud's Yitzhak Mordechai, reportedly over the status of the occupied territories, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Ministers from the Peres' Labour Party who spoke during the stormy cabinet session called on Shamir to accept Shultz's plan.

"We have to say 'yes' to the Americans. There is no alternative to the Shultz plan," Israel Radio quoted Economy Minister Gad Yacobi as saying.

Labour ministers said a meeting between Shultz and the two Palestinian-Americans in the United States proved that Shamir had exaggerated the "success" of his recent U.S. tour, the radio reported.

## Iraq fires 3 missiles at Qom

(Continued from page 1)

of tanks captured."

The assault, involving an estimated several thousand fighters, was the biggest reported mounted by the NLA since it launched a campaign against the Tehran regime a year ago.

In the Gulf, Iranian gunboats attacked the 337,733-ton Danish supertanker Karama Maersk off the southern emirate of Sharjah, setting it on fire, shipping executives reported.

The tanker's hull was holed and burning oil was spewing out behind it, officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

Three hours later, the gunboats attacked the 219,287-ton Norwegian-operated tanker Golar Kan-sai in the same area and set it

ablaze but not so badly, the officials reported.

No casualties were reported on either ship. Nearly 300 seamen have been killed and some 500 ships attacked by both sides in the so-called "tanker war."

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Iraqi warplanes hit a "maritime target" near Iran's Sheyk Shu'ayb island in the southern Gulf Sunday night.

The Iraqis said they hit two "large maritime targets" off Iran's coast Thursday night. None of the attacks has been independently confirmed.

But the Iraqis, who retaliate on a ship-for-ship basis, have attacked three neutral ships since then, indicating the Iraqi reports were probably accurate.

## Islamic society slams propaganda

(Continued from page 1)

The society sponsors the building of mosques, encourages Koran teaching, organises inter-Islamic information exchanges, finances agricultural projects and supports mobile medical clinics in many parts of Africa and Southeast Asia, Sheriff said.

It works in close cooperation with other Islamic organisations and United Nations agencies.

Its programmes include researching water resources in Africa, recruiting Koranic teachers, fight against illiteracy among Muslims and drawing up a mini-encyclopedia on Islam.

It also seeks revival of African languages and publishes regular books on Islam, as well as prints a fortnightly magazine. In addition, it sponsors seminars and conferences on basic humanitarian issues.

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Expert warns of collapse in oil prices

KUWAIT (AP) — A prominent Arab oil expert, describing the present oil market as "very weak," warned Sunday that the failure of OPEC members to abide by their output quotas could lead to a collapse of oil prices.

Abdul Aziz Al Watari, acting secretary-general of the Organisation of Arab Oil Exporting Countries (OAPEC), said a recent Arab energy conference held in Baghdad, Iraq, concluded that "the oil market is very weak at present because of the absolute slowdown in oil demand and because projections of increase in demand have failed to come through."

In an interview with the Kuwait News Agency, Watari said this situation could last for five years. He called for "a profound commitment and high degree of credibility on the part of OPEC states to retain the present reference price of \$18 a barrel."

The situation, he said, required "a high degree of cooperation" from producers outside the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), he said.

Seven of OAPEC's members, including influential Saudi Arabia, also are members of OPEC. Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer last week called for an emergency meeting of OPEC's five-man pricing committee amid reports some of the group's members have been violating production quotas and prices decreed by OPEC.

The rulings were laid in 1986 to defend the \$18 benchmark price.

"The failure of states in OPEC to stick to the production sharing will set the stage for a price decline, and any extraordinary increase in production could lead to the collapse of the price system in the foreseeable future," Watari warned.

He said: "If OPEC countries

want to retain the ability to administer its (the group's) share of the market... they should cooperate in defending their \$18 reference price by strictly adhering to output quotas and ceiling."

"Only this will be an evidence of OPEC's credibility, motivating non-OPEC producers to cooperate," he added.

In Riyadh, Nazer discussed cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC members with Malaysian Foreign Minister Datu Al Haj Abu Al Hasan Ibn Al Haj Omar, whose country is not a member of the group.

The official Saudi Press Agency quoted Nazer as saying that during the meeting, the two ministers "reviewed the role of non-OPEC producers in helping stabilise the oil market."

MEES doubts committee on pricing will solve problems

The Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported that a meeting of the pricing committee is unlikely to solve OPEC's price and production problems.

The respected weekly oil industry newsletter said that on the contrary, increased OPEC production in the second quarter could bring new problems because demand was not expected to keep pace with output.

It said the OPEC announcement of the committee meeting, set for early April, gave the oil market a boost.

"But it would be well not to get carried away by bullish sentiment since it is far from evident what, if anything, the projected committee meeting can accomplish," the

newsletter said.

It noted that the prices committee was not mandated to call for production cuts on its own.

What is expected is that the committee will review the results of an auditors' report on January production.

That was expected to show that the 12 signatories of OPEC's December agreement on production and prices "were more or less within their quotas for that month," the survey said.

"However, some OPEC watchers believe that OPEC production in March has probably edged up to something like 18 million barrels a day. This would certainly be excessive if carried over into the second quarter when call on OPEC crude, even with some stockpiling, is unlikely to top 17 million barrels a day," the weekly added.

OPEC has set production quotas for 12 of its 13 members in an effort to support a benchmark price of \$18 a barrel.

Iraq, the 13th member, has agreed to keep to the same quota of 2.4 million barrels a day as its Gulf war opponent, Iran. But Iran refuses to agree to that.

Several OPEC members are believed to be selling at market-related prices, which are as much as several dollars below the OPEC minimum because of increased production by non-OPEC members and the current excess of supply over demand.

The newsletter reported that major non-OPEC producers Mexico, Egypt, Oman, China, Angola, Malaysia and Columbia, "with Norway and the USSR reportedly observing at a distance," have been meeting in

London.

It said the group is reportedly trying to put together a package under which non-OPEC producers would reduce production by 300,000 barrels a day and OPEC producers by 700,000 barrels a day.

Libya reported producing one million barrels a day

MEES also reported that Libyan oil production was about one million barrels a day in the first quarter of this year.

That was in line with the quota of 996,000 barrels a day set for Libya by OPEC.

It said most Libyan production was exported as crude, the rest used domestically or exported as refined products.

The Libyan National Oil Co. marketed about 300,000 barrels a day while the foreign production partners got 120,000 barrels a day.

The weekly listed AGIP with 80,000, OMV 20,000, VEB 15,000, Wintershall 2,000 and Elf-Aquitaine 3,000.

Another 255,000 barrels were swapped as barter for imports as follows: USSR 100,000, Italy 40,000, Turkey 30,000, Greece 15,000, Yugoslavia 20,000 and others 50,000.

About 110,000 barrels were shipped to the Libyan-owned Tamoil refinery in Cremona, Italy, and another 30,000 for refining elsewhere in Italy, the newsletter reported.

MEES added that Iraq has signed an agreement with South Yemen to process 10,000 barrels a day of Iraqi crude oil at the Aden refinery starting April 1.

Seminar on barter trade opens at central bank

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Monday started a seminar which was attended by representatives of Jordanian banks and financial institutions, senior bankers from the British Midland Bank and representatives of Jordanian companies specialising in exporting national products.

The seminar, entitled "barter trade," was addressed by Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hamdi Tabbaa who clarified the concept of barter trade and Jordan's experiment in this field.

Tabbaa voiced the ministry's support for this kind of trade and

urged various institutions to work with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply to expand barter trade.

CBJ Governor Hussein Al Qasem also addressed the meeting. He outlined the importance of barter trade in international commercial transactions in general and among developing countries in particular.

CBJ sources said that barter trade now accounts for nearly 20 per cent of the total world trading volume, and it is on the increase, in view of the fact that it reduces dependence on hard currency.

Jordan to export 2,000 tonnes of tomato paste to Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraq is to import 2,000 tonnes of Jordanian tomato paste processed this year through the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO), in accordance with an agreement signed in Amman Sunday.

JAMPCO Director General Ghazi Abu Hassan and the Iraqi State Corporation for Canning and Marketing Agricultural Products Manager Mu'nes Al Ghibi signed the agreement.

Last year the two sides signed an agreement for the sale of 4,000 tonnes of Jordanian tomato paste

to Iraq.

Jordan barter agricultural products for Lebanese apples Saturday. JAMPCO signed an agreement with a Lebanese company for the exchange of 1,400 tonnes of a variety of Jordanian agricultural products for Lebanese apples.

JAMPCO is in charge of marketing Jordan's products abroad and has been selling these products in a number of Arab and European countries.

The agreement was signed by Abu Hassan and the Lebanese company's general manager.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for Monday March 28, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	166,211 JD	226,059	211
Top three companies:			
National Steel Ind.	15,050 JD	42,909	20
Universal Insurance	26,350 JD	28,985	7
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	10,000 JD	21,000	2
Parallel market:	14,568 JD	9,491	—
Development bonds:	210 JD	2,279	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.8510/20	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2420/30	Canadian dollar
	1.6645/55	Deutsche marks
	1.8700/10	Dutch guilders
	1.3760/70	Swiss francs
	34.85/90	Belgian francs
	5.6460/90	French francs
	1232/1233	Italian lire
	124.25/35	Japanese yen
	5.8920/70	Swedish crowns
	6.2635/85	Norwegian crowns
	6.3800/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	453.40/453.90	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Shares closed sharply weaker with most buyers cautious ahead of the opening of offshore markets. By close of trade the All Ordinaries index had fallen a solid 44.5 points to 1380.2.

TOKYO — Shares closed sharply higher in active trade as aggressive buying marked the start of the stock market fiscal year. The Nikkei index surged 301.99 points to 25,622.71.

HONG KONG — Share prices closed lower on concern about falling prices on Wall Street. The Hang Seng index fell 35.15 to 2,466.78.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed sharply lower across the board on selling pressure by nervous investors. The Straits Times industrial index fell 20.38 to 925.22.

BOMBAY — Prices slid further on unabated speculative selling despite the imposition of daily deposit margins of 20 per cent on 18 leading shares last week. Tata Steel fell 6.25 rupees to 635.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended two to three per cent lower after a similar fall Friday, because of the weaker dollar and lower Wall Street stocks. The Commerzbank index, set at mid-session, fell 38.1 to 1,341.8.

ZURICH — Prices closed sharply lower across the board in moderate trading as profit-taking set in following last week's negative trend on Wall Street. The All Share Swiss index fell 36.2 to 793.5.

PARIS — Shares ended the continuous session lower in the absence of any significant investor interest.

LONDON — Prices continued sharply lower in late trading but showed little immediate reaction to an early fall on Wall Street. At 1445 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 26.5 to 1,741.3.

NEW YORK — Stocks remained broadly lower in late morning as they had been since the opening. The Dow 30 was down nine at 1,970.

Prices of nickel rocket

LONDON (R) — Nickel prices soared to record levels again Monday as the London Metal Exchange (LME) reported that its warehouse stocks fell to lows not seen in 5½ years.

The price of nickel for immediate delivery jumped \$1,400 a tonne to \$23,900 on the exchange.

The exchange, meanwhile, said nickel inventories at its warehouses in Europe and Asia fell 150 tonnes last week to 1,788 tonnes, their lowest since the record low of 1,302 tonnes in August 1982.

Heavy buying by steel firms which use nickel to make stainless steel has been a key factor behind the higher prices.

Supplies are tight, as a dispute between a major producer, Toronto-based Falconbridge Ltd, and the Dominican Republic over export duties has cut shipments from the Caribbean nation. The Dominican Republic produces about three per cent of the world's nickel. Traders said the Falconbridge dispute has held up shipment of 5,000 to 6,000 tonnes of metal.

One key sign of the supply squeeze, traders say, is the steep premium now offered for immediate delivery — Monday, buyers wanting spot delivery paid \$4,400 above the price for delivery in three months time.

LME warehouse nickel stocks soared to more than 30,000 tonnes in 1984 but have hung around 5,000 tonnes since 1985 — a level described by Inco Ltd. of Canada, the world's largest producer, as "very low."

While stocks remain so low, dealers and analysts are reluctant to make any meaningful price predictions other than to suggest that prices would fall even more sharply than they have risen once nickel became more freely available.

Development projects cost Mafraq JD 18 million in '87

MAFRAQ (J.T.) — A total of JD 18,971,000 were spent last year on development projects in Mafraq governorate. JD 3,015,000 were spent in the badia area around Mafraq, according to Mafraq Governor Fayed Abbadi.

Abbadi said that projects on which funds were spent included

roads, school buildings, annexes to mosques, parks, central market, a livestock market, a bus terminal, street lights, a new water network for a number of villages, a plant for processing juice concentrates, a youth club, annexes to health clinics, a children's club and walls around school buildings.

Ruseifa gets JD 50,000 loan

ZARQA (Petra) — Ruseifa municipality has obtained a JD 50,000 loan to finance the construction of a market place in the city.

Mayor Mousa Al Khalaleh said that the municipality's 1988 budget provides for a JD 25,000 allocation to finance the construction of a crafts zone in Ruseifa and to build road shoulders and stairs and JD 23,000 for purchasing

garbage containers and insecticides.

In addition, Khalaleh said that JD 235,000 had been allocated for opening and maintaining roads. He added that private and public companies operating in Ruseifa had opened 18 kilometres of streets to assist the municipality in providing municipal services.

AFESD to set up joint Arab electric power ventures

BAGHDAD (OPECNA) — The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) has drawn up plans to implement joint Arab electricity ventures, it was reported here at the weekend.

Abdul Latif Youssef Al Hamad, the fund's director general, told a local daily "Baghdad Observer" that the fund was seeking to coordinate Arab energy sources and utilise resources

available in one Arab country to meet the needs of the others.

Al Hamad added that the fund was also keen to develop other energy alternatives for electric power generation.

This would have a major impact on inter-Arab economic investment, he said, adding that the development of Arab human resources in the energy field was among the most important concerns of the fund.

Turkey raises petrol prices for fourth time in four months

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey raised prices of petrol and petroleum products by up to 23 per cent Monday, the fourth increase in as many months, state radio said.

The price hikes meant fuel prices have risen more than 40 per cent since December. Turkey imports most of its oil.

The radio, giving the new prices for Ankara province, said regular grade petrol would cost 23 per cent more at 505 lira (41 cents) a litre and super grade petrol would go up 22.9 per cent

to 535 lira (43 cents). Kerosene and diesel oil went up by 18 per cent to 390 lira (32 cents) a litre while the price of fuel oil for heating rose 12 per cent to 224 lira (18 cents).

The new prices for Ankara province went into immediate effect. Prices for other provinces will be announced later.

The government has announced a string of price increases on goods and services to help reduce a budget deficit since it was returned to power in elections at the end of last November.

Portuguese stage major strike

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of workers staged a 24-hour general strike Monday that paralysed factories, airports, public transport, banks and other essential services across Portugal.

The protest was aimed at a government bill that would make it easier for companies to dismiss workers.

Portugal's rival communist and socialist labour federations, united behind the same protest for the first time, claimed the strike as a victory for the unions over the centre-right government of Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva.

Cavaco Silva, whose Social Democrats hold a solid parliamentary majority, said the strike would not cause him to alter a single line of a government bill liberalising labour legislation.

He says the legislation is crucial to attracting investment in Portugal and modernising the economy.

Labour leaders said 85 per cent of union members supported the strike.

"The government cannot act as if it were deaf, dumb and blind in the face of this massive protest," said Manuel Carvalho Da Silva, a leader of the communist-dominated General Confederation of Portuguese Workers (CGTP-Intersindical).

But the government said in a statement: "The country is working normally apart from the transport sector where there have been some clear cases of sabotage."

The labour ministry said unions were exaggerating the extent of support for the strike.

Hundreds of thousands of jobs cut back in Russian Federation

MOSCOW (R) — Hundreds of thousands of jobs have been cut in the Russian Federation, the largest of the Soviet Union's 15 republics, in efforts to streamline the economy, the republic's president said Monday.

Vladimir Orlov told the Communist Party newspaper Pravda that 56 per cent of workers who had lost their jobs had been given new tasks in their workplaces, and 26 per cent of them had been transferred to other sectors of the economy.

The remaining 18 per cent had received pensions, he said.

The laying off of workers is part of measures introduced by

Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev to boost the Soviet economy. Soviet officials have said all those displaced will receive new jobs.

Orlov said workers' pay in the Russian Federation was now directly linked to performance and a maximum wage was no longer being applied.

A top Kremlin economic adviser, Abel Aganbegyan, said last month that Soviet government ministries had also cut their staffs by an average of 50 per cent.

Soviet authorities have ordered the establishment of job placement centres across the country to help displaced workers.

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**GIRLS JUST  
WANT TO HAVE  
FUN**

Performances 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 10.30

Cinema

**RAINBOW**

Tel: 625155

**SOME ONE  
LIKE YOU**

Someone

Performances 3.15, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30

Cinema

**NIJOUN CINEMA** «Formerly Opera»

Tel: 675573

**STRIPES**

Performances 3.30, 6.15, 8.30, 10.30

Cinema

**PLAZA**

Tel: 677420

**STITCHES**

Performances 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 10.30

Cinema

**PLAZA**

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**STITCHES**

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## Four teams to battle for basketball championships

NEW YORK (AP) — It's final. The four are Arizona, Oklahoma, Duke and Kansas. These four teams will battle for college basketball's National Championship next Saturday and Monday at Kansas City.

Second-ranked Arizona brought the Pacific-10 Conference back to the final four for the first time since UCLA was there in 1980, while No. 4 Oklahoma and Kansas gave the big eight dual representation for the first time.

"We've said all year long we're not carrying the banner for anybody but Arizona," Wildcats coach Lute Olson said, referring to frequent criticism that the Pac-10 has been weak since UCLA fell from national prominence.

The trip is the first for Arizona, but second for Olson, who took Iowa to the final four in 1980, when it lost to Louisville in the semifinals, fifth-ranked Duke has been to the final four six times, but has never won a National Championship.

Arizona got to the final four by beating No. 7 North Carolina 70-52 for the West Regional Championship Sunday. In the day's other game, Kansas beat No. 20 Kansas State 71-58 for the Midwest title.

On Saturday, Duke upset No. 1 Temple 63-53 to win the East Regional, and Oklahoma defeated Villanova 78-59 in the Southeast Regional. Arizona, 35-2, plays Oklahoma, 34-3, and Kansas, 25-11, meets Duke, 28-6, in next Saturday's semifinals.

Arizona, which failed for the first time in the tournament to win by at least 20 points, is the first Pacific-10 Conference team in the final four other than UCLA since Oregon State went in 1963.

### Midwest

Kansas 71, No. 20 Kansas State 58:

Danny Manning scored 20 points and got some help from his supporting players to lead Kansas into the final four for the eighth time, fourth-highest total in tournament history.

### East

No. 5 Duke 63, No. 1 Temple 53:

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said his Blue Devils played "much like a veteran team to beat the most veteran team we've played all year." But it was the way Duke dealt with Temple freshman Mark Macon that may have made the difference.

### Southeast

No. 4 Oklahoma 78, Villanova 59:

Villanova not only slowed down Oklahoma but succeeded in slowing itself down too. The offense-minded Sooners held the Wildcats scoreless over a 5½-minute stretch late in the game to win the Southeast.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
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### TOO MANY TRUMPS

North-South vulnerable. South

West led the top of his spade sequence, and declarer was reasonably satisfied with his contract. Since he had a sure diamond loser, his fate seemed to hang on finding either a 2-2 trump split, or East with the queen and guessing the position. However, there is a form of insurance you can take when you hold long trumps — shorten your holding as soon as possible. So at trick two, declarer ruffed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club.

His foresight was rewarded when he led a trump to the ace and East failed to follow. Although it now seemed that West had two sure trump tricks, declarer visualized a distribution where he might bring home his slam against all odds.

He ruffed another club, cashed his remaining high spade and ruffed a spade on the table. That provided the entry for another club ruff, and declarer was almost home. When the ace-king of diamonds lived, declarer could claim. He was down to two trumps and a diamond, while South's hand became enormous. He launched into Blackwood immediately and settled for a small slam when he found out North held two aces; a grand slam was remote because North could not hold much more than his aces for a single raise.

The bidding: North South East

1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass

4 NT Pass 5 NT Pass

6 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

South and West suffered from the same disease: too many trumps. However, declarer had a cure for his ailment and was able to turn West's apparent asset into a major liability. Once his suit was supported, South's hand became enormous. He launched into Blackwood immediately and settled for a small slam when he found out North held two aces; a grand slam was remote because North could not hold much more than his aces for a single raise.

South West North East

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4 NT Pass 5 NT Pass

6 NT Pass Pass Pass

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## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Society to organise cross country race

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Charitable Jordanian Society for Surgery and Cardiothoracic Diseases will organise a cross country race Friday, April 1. The proceeds will be used for the benefit of heart and chest patients in Jordan. Citizens of all ages and of different nationalities have been invited by the society to take part in the race which is being sponsored by the ministries of youth, labour and social development, education and higher education. The society said in a statement that teams from the four Jordanian universities, departments of education, the Armed Forces and Royal Jordanian Air Force will take part in the race. The statement said that distances of two to 7.5 kilometres will be covered by the participants, grouped into six different categories, kicking off from six different locations: The University of Jordan, Hajjawi petrol station, Barakeh petrol station, Petra Bank, Safeway International, Ambassador Hotel. The society has so far received 2,000 applications from various citizens of all ages requesting to take part in the race called "Heart Day."

### Police hold 80 at Inter-Roma match

MILAN (R) — Police said they detained more than 80 fans after violence Sunday at an Italian First Division soccer match between Internazionale Milan and Roma. Sixty of those held, all Roma fans, were charged with criminal damage and violent behaviour after they wrecked a city bus taking them from San Siro stadium to Milan railway station, a police spokesman said. The rest were not charged. Five fans, two policemen and a stadium security guard were injured slightly during fighting before the game, which Internazionale won 4-2. Roma goalkeeper Franco Tancredi was badly injured last December at San Siro when he was hit by a firecracker thrown from the terraces during a match between Roma and AC Milan. Inter and AC Milan share the ground.

### Soviets defend wrestling title

TOLEDO, Ohio (R) — The Soviet Union defeated the United States 6-4 Sunday to successfully defend their World Freestyle Team Championship in the World Cup of international wrestling at the University of Toledo. Akhmed Atavov's pivotal 5-4 win over American Bill Scherr in the 100-kilogramme category clinched victory for the Soviets. The Soviet Union finished with a perfect eight points in the Round-Robin Series of dual meets. They followed wins over Cuba and Australia Saturday with a 10-0 drubbing of South Korea and the close victory over the United States. The U.S. finished second with six points, beating each team but the Soviets. Cuba was third as they picked up four points on Sunday from their 8-2 win over South Korea and a shutout victory over Australia.

### Tokyo to host 1989 Federation Cup

LONDON (AP) — Tokyo will host the 1989 Federation Cup women's team tennis competition, the International Tennis Federation announced Monday. The \$300,000 tournament, which attracts the world's top players, will be staged at the Ariake coliseum from Oct. 1-8. It will be the third time this decade that Japan has staged the competition.

## FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1988

## YOUR HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Richter Institute

### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

You will find it quite easy to decide how you should proceed in the days ahead, so first plan a rough outline, then concentrate on the details. Try to be more cooperative with people who can be of assistance to you.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Try to use the creative side of your nature to further your business interests. Try to be more kind and understanding to your mate.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You have some excellent ideas on how to make improvements to your home, so get busy on them. Enjoy the company of your kids tonight.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Your ability to communicate your ideas to others will be unusually good now, so use it. This will be a trying, but satisfying, day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can get the support you need from a superior for a financial venture you have in mind. Take care of personal matters this evening.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A new contact can give you some information which will help you progress more quickly, so listen carefully to this person.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Talk over an important idea with a person who is very fond of you, and come to a firm agreement. Be sure to drive carefully tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get your work finished early today, then go out on the town for some fun with your mate. Stick to simple pleasures, and don't spend a lot.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be more cooperative with others, and you can be more efficient and financially secure. Be sure to drive carefully this evening.

your mate and come to a better understanding. Be calm and tactful with this person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A good friend has some ideas which can make both of you more financially secure, but you must work together in order to do this.

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## NBS STANDINGS

NEW YORK (R) — Standings of National Basketball Association (NBA) teams Sunday:

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
X-Boston Celtics	48	21	.696	—
Philadelphia 76ers	30	38	.441	17½
Washington Bullets	30	38	.441	17½
New York Knicks	29	39	.426	18½
New Jersey Nets	18	51	.261	30
Central Division				
Y-Detroit Pistons	46	21	.687	—
Atlanta Hawks	41	26	.612	5
Chicago Bulls	40	28	.588	6½
Milwaukee Bucks	38	29	.567	8
Indiana Pacers	33	35	.485	13½
Cleveland Cavaliers	31	38	.449	16
Western Conference				
Midwest Division				
Y-Dallas Mavericks	46	21	.687	—
Y-Denver Nuggets	43	26	.623	4
Y-Houston Rockets	40	26	.606	5½
Y-Utah Jazz	38	30	.559	8½
San Antonio Spurs	25	42	.373	21
Sacramento Kings	20	48	.294	27½
Pacific Division				
Y-Los Angeles Lakers	52	16	.765	—
Y-Portland Trail Blazers	42	25	.627	9½
Seattle SuperSonics	36	32	.529	16
Phoenix Suns	22	46	.324	30
Golden State Warriors	17	50	.254	34½
Los Angeles Clippers	14	53	.209	37½
X-Clinched Division title				
Y-Clinched playoff berth				



## Brother of leftist leader shot dead

## Rebels kill 7 in bloodiest Manila attack

MANILA (R) — Gunmen ambushed a suburban mayor Monday, wounding him and killing seven security aides in the bloodiest attack blamed on Communist rebels in Manila since they moved their insurgency to the capital last year.

A few hours later the brother of a Philippine leftist leader was shot to death and while police did not know who was responsible, some past killings by Communist hitmen have been followed by right-wing attacks on leftist targets.

Prospero Oreta, mayor of Malabon and a relative of President Corason Aquino by marriage, was seriously wounded along with a bodyguard in the Manila ambush a day before the Communist New People's Army (NPA) celebrates its 19th anniversary.

Police blamed the attack on Communist death squads or "Sparrow Units," who last year brought their insurgency from the countryside to the capital.

Oreta and his bodyguards were riding in a two-car convoy to the town hall when half a dozen men sprayed the vehicles with gunfire. The two cars sustained a total of 84 bullet holes, police said.

Eight hours after Oreta and his party were ambushed while going down a Malabon bridge, the brother of leftist leader Jose Castro was shot dead 16 kilometres away.

Castro, a founder of the leftist "People's Party" which the milit-

ary believes is a Communist front, said his car was being driven to a repair shop by his brother Francisco when it was fired upon, and he suspected he might have been the intended target.

His brother, who was alone in the car, was shot by three men from another vehicle, police said. "It was possible that the bullets that shattered my brother's face were intended for me," Castro told reporters.

Leftist groups had accused the military and right-wing extremists of avenging victims of Communist killings by hitting innocent leftist targets.

Monday's killings came during a nationwide military alert against possible rebel attacks coinciding with the guerrilla army's anniversary celebration Tuesday.

Communist governments

Also Monday, a spokesman for an underground group said Philippine Communists plan to set up their own governments in at least three regions of the country by the middle of next year.

The Reverend Brendon Cruz, a Roman Catholic priest and spokesman of the Christians for

National Liberation (CNL), also told a clandestine news conference that the rebels have invited several bishops to visit rebel-held areas and meet Communist cadres.

The CNL is one of 12 Marxist organisations under the National Democratic Front (NDF), the Communist rebel umbrella group. The NDF includes the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military wing, the New People's Army.

Cruz said his organisation invited the bishops and heads of other religious organisations in the country to visit rebel areas to ally whatever fears they have about the rebels.

"They may see for themselves the new direction CNL is taking in the countryside, namely participation in community building and development for the war effort under the provisional revolutionary government," Cruz said in a seminary outside Manila.

He said the NDF already has established municipal- and district-level Marxist governments and would proclaim three regional governments before the second half of 1989.

The priest declined to name the areas where the rebel governments would be located, citing security reasons.

## S. Africa raids Botswana

GABORONE, Botswana (AP) — The South African army raided a house on the outskirts of the capital early Monday, engaging in an hour-long gunbattle that left four people dead and the house destroyed.

The South African Defence Force claimed responsibility for the attack 10 hours after it ended, leaving four bodies burned beyond recognition.

The residents of Tsholofelo, about three kilometres from the city centre, said they heard automatic gunfire and possible grenades during a sporadic shootout.

Some reported seeing people fleeing in a vehicle and running into the bush near the house and

two reported that attackers left in a helicopter.

There was no official statement on Radio Botswana, and no information about whether the police or military took part in the battle.

Deputy Police Commissioner Norman Molebogo was quoted by the Botswana Press Association as saying four people were shot, then set afire by the attackers who abandoned a vehicle with a South African registration.

A reporter on the scene said a van in the bush about 200 metres from the burned-out one-story house had no registration plates. Neighbours told police that the occupants of the house were all

Botswana, he was quoted as saying.

The Botswana government has blamed similar attacks in the past on the South African military, which says it stages raids across its border to attack hideouts and bases of the African National Congress (ANC).

The South African government has issued several threats to Botswana in the past few months, accusing it of harbouring guerrillas.

The Botswana government supports the ANC's goals and allows its representatives in the country, but denies that they carry out attacks in South Africa from Botswana territory.

## Panama opposition braces for mass demonstration

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) — The opposition braced Monday for a mass demonstration aimed at loosening General Manuel Antonio Noriega's grip on power and Panama's monthlong standoff.

National Civic Crusade leaders said they would defy any ban on the march the government might issue under an 11-day-old state of emergency.

"Peaceful protest is a right written in the constitution," said Jose Faundes, of the Panamanian Human Rights Commission. "It is above any decree, any law."

Troops from Noriega's 15,000-member defence forces have met past demonstrations with shotguns and tear gas or blocked attempts at protest marches.

"We hope they realise they cannot repress the will of the people," Aurelio Barria, leader of Crusade, said Sunday.

The Crusade said demonstrators planned to gather in front of the church of Don Bosco in Panama City and then march to a park about 1 kilometre away.

The Roman Catholic Church did not endorse the march. It urged restraint on both sides and said it would send monitors to

help keep the peace.

The Church has been under fire for refusing to join the opposition calls for Noriega's resignation, but Barria said Sunday that "the fact that the Church has recognised it at mass today will certainly help."

The march was to open the second week of a general strike that has shut down an estimated 90 per cent of the nation's industry and commerce and aggravated a critical cash shortage.

On Sunday, the government expelled a reporter for the French news agency Agence France Presse (AFP) because his visa had been issued by a Panamanian consular official in Washington loyal to deposed president Eric Arturo Delvalle.

Noriega has been overtly hostile to the foreign and domestic press, closing newspapers and radio stations, expelling reporters or refusing to let them enter Panama.

AFP photographer Omar Torres said authorities held Mike Gonzalez incommunicado at the airport for nine hours, confiscated his notes and papers, then put him on flight to Miami early Sunday. He said Gonzalez ar-

rived safely.

## U.S. and traitors

Noriega insists the opposition movement is the work of the United States and a handful of Panamanian traitors.

A high-ranking U.S. official scoffed at this idea Sunday.

"The whole populace is against him," Elliot Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, said told the CBS Television Network in the United States. "The crisis ends when the guy physically leaves the country."

Noriega has tried to counteract the economic slowdown by ordering business open, seizing two flour mills, taking over ports and demanding cash from banks to meet the defence forces' payroll.

Neither businesses nor the banks have bowed to the general's pressure.

Noriega could not pay his troops Friday, and faces another payroll of \$33 million this week for 130,000 civil servants as pension payments to retired government workers.

The government threatened Sunday to take all legal means to get the banking system working.

## Ortega urges Reagan to respect ceasefire

## Nicaragua frees political prisoners, prepares for new peace talks

MANAGUA (R) — After releasing 100 political prisoners as part of a ceasefire agreement, the Nicaraguan government prepared for fresh peace talks with contra rebels Monday.

The new talks were expected to focus on logistical problems involved in creating the ceasefire zones in which the U.S.-backed rebels are to assemble under the terms of last week's accord.

The ceasefire agreement commits contra fighters to moving into the zones during the first 15 days of April to ease tensions while talks continue towards a final peace agreement.

The government's pledge to release more political prisoners is contingent on the rebels' entry into the ceasefire zones.

Sunday's prisoner release

marked the government's first concrete step towards compliance with the accord signed last Wednesday at Sapo on the Costa Rican border.

The released prisoners, 99 men and one woman, included dozens of suspected contra collaborators and battle-hardened rebels.

## Respect the ceasefire

On Sunday Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega urged U.S. President Ronald Reagan to respect the ceasefire in the Nicaraguan civil war, while a rebel commander vowed to resume fighting if the government broke its promises.

Interviewed on U.S. television, Ortega hailed last week's agreement between the Sandinista government and contra rebels to start a 60-day ceasefire next Sunday as a victory for peace which both

Nicaraguans and Americans supported.

"Here the U.S. must respect what the revolutionaries have signed. This has been an independent position, contrary to the position of President Reagan," Ortega said.

"My understanding is that President Reagan wants to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution, so he is dissatisfied that the revolution is intact," the Nicaraguan president added.

Contra leader Adolfo Calero, accusing the Sandinistas of repeatedly violating their promises, said he wanted a U.S. guarantee of quick military aid in the event that the Managua authorities breached the ceasefire pact.

"Freedom is worth everything," Calero said on television.

## Voices of dissent heard in China's parliament

PEKING (Agencies) — Delegates to China's annual meeting of parliament spoke out against government proposals Monday in a rare expression of dissent.

Diplomats said they believed it was the first time in the history of Chinese Communism that delegates had voiced their opposition during a full session of the National People's Congress (NPC) under the eyes of foreign reporters and other guests.

Five men stood up, walked up to a microphone in the aisle of the Great Hall of the People and told 2,900 delegates that they objected to government recommendations on personnel.

They were responding to a call by the Congress's chairman for objections to a motion before putting it to the vote.

People have voted against a motion before now, but this is the first time they have explained their reasons for dissenting in public, said a diplomat.

Delegates were voting on who should be in seven special Congress committees.

Muffled laughter rang over the massive hall after one overseas Chinese delegate, Wu Chan, spoke up.

## I am too old

"China is following a policy of making its leadership younger. I am too old for this committee. I should not be on it," he said.

An ex-member of Taiwan's government, Huang Shunxin, said the vice-chairman of the Congress was too old for the job of chairman of a committee on education and health, for which he was being proposed.

"Zhou Guoheng is 89, he should take a rest," said Huang, who came to China in 1985.

Another overseas Chinese said many people in his committee had no experience of life outside China and were therefore unsuitable for the job.

"For the first time in the NPC's history, not a single one of the seven committees was elected unanimously," the official New China News Agency reported.

According to the agency, there were 10 votes against and 86 abstentions in the committee voting.

"This is part of the gradual process of giving more importance to the Congress," said a diplomat. "This dissent is organised to show people that Congress has become a forum where delegates can express their views."

He said it would be much more difficult for delegates to voice their opposition on major policy issues.

The official People's Daily said Monday: "The reason this Congress is attracting peoples' attention is because such a liberated attitude has never been seen before."

## Opposition slams Bangladesh reshuffle

DHAKA (R) — Bangladeshi opposition leaders dismissed President Hussein Muhammad Ershad's cabinet reshuffle as a cosmetic exercise, saying Monday it would not cause any major political or administrative changes.

"This is a purely cosmetic change and no one should expect any topsy-turvy in the administration or the existing political trend," said K.M. Obaidur Rahman, secretary-general of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Ershad, who named a 23-member

ber cabinet Sunday night, appointed long-time political ally Moudud Ahmed as the new prime minister.

Sajeda Chowdhury, general secretary of the opposition Awami League, said the cabinet shake-up was a "mere eyewash and shameful joke."

He added: "The world has seen how ridiculous was the parliamentary poll. People have rejected the farcical vote and its tainted results. Whom he (Ershad) is taking on the cabinet and who's being fired do not interest the people any more."

## Bonn says 10 suspected Soviet agents arrested

BONN (AP) — The federal prosecutor said Monday police had seized 10 suspected Soviet spies in a nationwide crackdown that officials termed a major blow against the KGB, Moscow's chief espionage agency.

Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann said the arrests showed that Soviet spy networks were redoubling undercover work in the West, despite recently improved relations between the superpowers.

West Germany's counter-intelligence agents "have dealt a serious blow to Eastern espionage agencies," Zimmermann said in a statement.

"The large number of arrests confirms that instead of refraining from activating agents in a time of political détente (between East and West), the East bloc is intensifying the illegal activities of its operatives," he added.

Security sources said the arrests, made during a series of police raids last week, marked one of the biggest setbacks ever

to Soviet spying in West Germany.

Federal prosecutor Kurt Rebmann also said the arrests were a victory for Soviet espionage agents.

The arrests marked "an important penetration of the KGB spy network" in West Germany, Rebmann told reporters.

Spy scandals and arrests are frequent in West Germany, a front-line NATO ally and one of Western Europe's most technologically advanced nations.

In the last major espionage scandal, 15 communist agents were arrested or disappeared between August and December 1985.

Earlier Monday, Rebmann announced that 10 people were taken into custody last Wednesday and Thursday as part of a nationwide crackdown against espionage targets.

A total of 169 police officers carried out the raids, against 33 different locations, according to Rebmann.

## Monitoring group says 26 journalists killed

NEW YORK (AP) — Twenty-six journalists were killed in the line of duty in 1987, 11 of them in the Philippines, according to a report released Sunday by a monitoring group.

The "Attacks Report," issued by the Committee to Protect Journalists, listed 59 assaults on journalists and more than 185 arrests or kidnapping of journalists.

The report said 11 journalists were forced to leave their own countries under threats and 32 foreign journalists were expelled from the countries where they were working.

"These figures are a grim reminder that even in the midst of a worldwide communications revolution, some still feel the temptation to kill the messenger," said Committee Chairman Josh Friedman in a press release.

In 1986, the committee documented the killings of 15

journalists, 56 assaults and more than 190 arrests or kidnappings.

Another 37 were expelled and eight left countries under threat.

In the Philippines, the committee said, most attacks against journalists "took place within a series of retaliatory actions perpetrated by guerrillas on one side, and military and paramilitary (or vigilante) personnel on the other."

Five of those were killed on Aug. 27 by armed men who broke into a radio station. The victims reportedly had ties with an anti-Communist radio commentator.

The Committee to Protect Journalists is a non-profit, non-partisan organisation founded in 1981 by a group of American reporters and editors. The group tries to record abuses, expose those responsible and work wherever possible to alleviate the abuses.

## 'Bhutto to share power by 1990'

LONDON (R) — Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto will form a coalition government by 1990, according to a British newsletter on future political developments in South Asia.

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) said that since martial law was lifted in Pakistan two years ago, "civilisation" had progressed more smoothly than expected in view of the animosity between Bhutto and Pakistan President Muhammad Zia Ul Haq.

"The process will culminate in 1990 in Benazir Bhutto and her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) forming a coalition government," the EIU said in its report published Tuesday.

It predicted the PPP would overcome the reservations of the army and the rise of new regionalist parties bidding for votes among its supporters.

Bhutto, 34, is the daughter of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, whose execution was presided over by Zia.

She returned from exile in April 1986 to spearhead an opposition challenge and foreign diplomats and analysts believe her PPP is potentially the biggest political force in the country.

## Luanda, UNITA 'ready to talk'

LUSAKA (R) — Angolan President Eduardo Dos Santos and rebel leader Jonas Savimbi have said they are ready to meet to discuss an end to the civil war in Angola if foreign intervention is ended, a senior Egyptian official said in a television interview screened Sunday.

Boutros Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, said: "President Dos Santos has informed me that he is ready to meet Savimbi, and Savimbi has said he is ready to meet him to negotiate in order to solve the civil war."

Ghali, who is Egypt's Africa specialist, gave the interview to Zambia television last week while attending a meeting in Lusaka of African finance and foreign ministers.

He gave no indication of when or how the two Angolans told Egypt of their readiness to talk, but Zambian government officials said Egypt had been trying for some time to mediate between Luanda and Savimbi's UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) movement.

## Burma says 1,688 insurgents killed

RANGOON, Burma (AP) — Burmese government troops killed a total of 1,688 insurgents, and 592 soldiers died in fighting with rebel groups in the nation's five military regions in the last year, an official announcement said Sunday. In the 12 months that ended March 20, government forces captured 378 insurgents and 569 others surrendered, the announcement said. It also said 1,666 soldiers were wounded. Government troops seized more than 2,000 weapons including mortars, rifles and heavy machine guns, it added. The Rangoon government has been battling a dozen insurgent groups demanding greater independence, autonomy or separate states. They include the Burma Communist Party, the Kachin Independence Army in the north and northeast, the Shan rebels in the east and the Karen National Union in the southeastern and central region.

## 25 die in bus accident

NEW DELHI (AP) — At least 25 people were killed and 37 others injured Monday in a bus accident in western Maharashtra state, the United News of India (UNI) reported. The news agency said the state government-owned bus, with 62 people on board, fell into a ravine about 30 kilometres northeast of Bombay at 2:40 a.m. (2110 GMT Sunday). The bus was bound from Nasik, 115 kilometres farther northeast, to Virar, a northern Bombay suburb, UNI said.

## Bomb found at Brussels ANC office

BRUSSELS (AP) — An unexploded bomb was found early Sunday outside the Brussels office of the African National Congress (ANC), the banned South African opposition movement, police reported. Experts removed the explosive device, which police only described as strong. A few weeks ago, two shots had been fired at the same office while ANC representatives were present. Nobody was injured and no one was arrested. No responsibility was claimed for either incident.

## Bus crash claims 18

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A bus plunged into a river in western Nepal, killing 18 people and injuring 42, police said Monday. Police said the bus, carrying 60 people, was en route

from Bhairawa to Katmandu Sunday when it plunged into the Trisuli River, about 150 kilometres west of Katmandu.

## Storm accumulates losses

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Four consecutive days of torrential rain left at least 18 people dead and forced the evacuation of 35,000 residents of the Buenos Aires-La Plata area, officials said Sunday. Weather forecasters said the heavy rains that have pounded Buenos Aires and central Argentina since Thursday would continue Monday. Families have been forced to flee to the roofs of their homes to escape floodwaters in some low-lying areas. Firefighters and police have used boats, makeshift rafts and horses to help evacuate families to temporary shelters in schools, sports clubs and office buildings. The dead included seven children who drowned and two women electrocuted while crossing flooded streets where live cables had fallen.

## Suspected Sikh militants kill 18

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — Suspected Sikh militants killed at least 18 people in various attacks near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, police said Monday. The victims, all killed Sunday, included four members of a Hindu family gunned down in their home and a Sikh policeman visiting a village for a sister's wedding, police said. Militants armed with AK-47 rifles killed four members of a Hindu family, and a neighbour, in Manowal village 36 kilometres west of Amritsar, police said.

## Big relief for cyclone victims

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange Monday announced the country's biggest-ever disaster relief effort for victims of cyclone Bola, which devastated much of New Zealand's north island last month. Lange told a news conference that an unprecedented 50 million dollars (U.S. \$32 million) would be given to farmers who suffered huge economic losses because of the massive flooding and high winds. More than 3,300 farms, mainly on the east coast near the city of Gisborne, were hit by the cyclone, described as New Zealand's worst natural disaster. Four people died in the storm. "We are talking about saving a city and a region," Lange said. He said the programme would cover about 60 per cent of the estimated damage to agriculture and be allocated as compensation for uninsured stock, crop, building, equipment and land damage plus loss of income.



## Speakes speaks out

WASHINGTON (R) — Former White House spokesman Larry Speakes, in a gossip news book about his six years in the Reagan White House, says getting the president ready to meet the press was one of his biggest challenges. Speakes primarily praises President Reagan in "Speaking Out," excerpts of which were published Sunday by U.S. News and World Report magazine, but said preparing him for a news conference was "like reinventing the wheel." Speakes also writes that if angered, Nancy Reagan was "likely to stab you in the back." He describes Maureen Reagan, the president's eldest daughter, as a "punch-you-in-the-nose type" whose politics put her "to the right of Atilla the Hun." Speakes calls Vice-President George Bush "the perfect yes man" and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger "a whiny type ... the loosest of cannons, the baddest boy."

## Ax attack

READING, England (AP) — A man wielding an ax and a knife burst into a worship service Sunday and attacked three members of the congregation, seriously wounding them, police said. About 20 worshippers, some with blood-splattered clothes, fled in terror after the rampage at a Pentecostal service in central Reading, 50 kilometres west of London, witnesses said. The alleged attacker sped away in a car, set fire to his home and was later arrested, police said. Inspector Jim Reilly of the Thames Valley police force said two women, aged 54 and 30, and a 31-year-old man were wounded. Reilly said he did not have details of their injuries, but LBC, a London radio station, said the attacker slit the 54-year-old woman's throat, sliced the other woman's hand and bashed the man over the head with the ax.

## Boy drowns in washing machine

PEKING (R) — A three-year-old boy drowned when he fell head-first into a washing machine at his home in rural China, a Shanghai newspaper reported. Warning parents to beware of hazards from household appliances bought in new-found affluence, the Xinmin Evening News said Sunday that when the boy's father went looking for his son "all he saw was two little legs sticking up."

## S. Africa won't see Biko film

JOHANNESBURG (R) — British director Richard Attenborough's film about black consciousness leader Steve Biko will not be shown in South Africa, a local newspaper said Sunday. The Johannesburg Sunday Times said Attenborough had cancelled plans to release "Cry Freedom" in South Africa because of the threat of legal action against the film's distributors. But the newspaper said the real reason was to save the costs of a South African launch for the film, which it described as an international flop. The film about Biko, who died in police custody in 1977, was mired in controversy from the start. South African black consciousness groups initially objected to the film, saying it focused on white newspaper editor Donald Woods and relegated Biko to a minor role. The film was approved for release in South Africa but the state threatened to prosecute newspapers over advertisements for the film which quoted "banned" people — opponents of apartheid who may not be quoted in South Africa.

## Maybe next time

LONDON (AP) — British explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes and two teammates were airlifted to their base camp Sunday after failing in an attempt to walk 684 kilometres to the North Pole, an expedition spokeswoman said. A ski plane flew Fiennes, Dr. Mike Stroud and Oliver Shepard back to their camp on Ward Hunt Island after picking them up on the frozen Arctic Ocean, said expedition coordinator Penny Studholme. She said the men would remain at the camp for a few days to recover from their arduous 17-day trek. She said they were tired, but "safe and o.k." The explorers were attempting to become the first people to cross the Arctic to the North Pole without sled dogs, motor vehicles or air drops. They abandoned the attempt Friday — 65 kilometres from their starting point — after Fiennes, 43, developed severe frostbite in two toes and Stroud and Shepard suffered frostnip in their feet. Frostnip is a stage before full-scale frostbite, which can lead to gangrene.

